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ARIFURETA SHOKUGYOU DE SEKAISAIKYOU
世界最強
OVERLAP

Arifureta Shokugyou de Sekai Saikyou

Volume 13

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Chapter 120

Just like a joke, the head of the next inline Emperor, Bias, was easily flung into the air.

[……..]

[That was the next Emperor. Your successor…..can you bear seeing that, can you bear hearing that, that was quite awful]

[…….I should have already said it. Even if we were all massacred, I won't be pledging to anything. Be crushed by the fury of the Empire]

[To have that kind of attitude even after your son's been killed. Ma~a, to begin with, he's probably never been loved by you. After all, the position of Emperor is decided through ability, that's why it's not unusual for relatives to try and murder one another]

It was exactly as Cam said, relatives could gain the position of Emperor by winning a duel. Even if the partner is killed during the duel it wouldn't be considered a crime.

Gaharudo had many concubines who gave birth besides the queen, Bias himself was a child of a concubine which managed to become Crowned Prince through showing his abilities in duels. It was befitting of their principles, the weak will follow the strong! and there you have it.

Probably because of that, Gaharudo's expression didn't change at all. Since the beginning, the standards were either weak or strong, there have been rumors that there were no love for his sons and daughters……there didn't seem to be any hidden emotions either, so it may very well be true. Rather, the aide from a while ago was the only time he really exposed his anger.

Gaharudo that was snorting towards Cam's words.

[If you know that it's useless now then just stop]

[There's no rush. You won't pledge no matter what? You'll continue

tormenting the Demi-humans after this? You'll continue tracking down our Haruia Tribe?]

[How repetitious]

[Is that so….."Delta 1, this is Alpha 1, do it"]

———Alpha 1, this is Delta 1. Roger

All of the sudden, Cam started saying things which Gaharudo couldn't comprehend. Though Gaharudo had a questioning expression, in the next moment, he felt and heard the roar of a huge explosion through his belly and the complexion of his face changed.

[-. What was that just now!]

[What, it's not that much of a big deal. We only blew up the barracks that were watching the slaves]

[Blew up? It can't be……]

[Fumu, how many people were inside again……anyways several hundreds of soldiers just died. It's all your fault, Gaharudo]

[You bastards did it!]

[Nope, it was you, Gaharudo. Your decision claimed the lives of those soldiers. And……"Delta 1, this is Alpha 1, do it"]

Once again, Cam muttered things which Gaharudo couldn't comprehend, Gaharudo immediately called out to him. It was far too bad of a joke that they could remotely detonate explosives from this location.

[Oi! Hauria～!]

However, Gaharudo's words were in vain, a second roar erupted. Not within the Imperial Castle. A large explosion occurred somewhere in the capital.

Holding back his emotions, Gaharudo asked.

[……Where was that explosion?]

[The hospital]

[Wha, damn you!]

[Be relieved. What blew up was the military's hospital. The only ones that died were soldiers and their doctors……to begin with, the public hospital, Inns, brothels, residential areas, though lots of people lost their homes and are living in temporary shelters after the Majinzoku's attack, do you have any request?]

[Don't go laying your hands on the general public! How far are you going to fall Hauria!]

[…….You guys always persecuted us Demi-humans. You've got no right to complain when the positions are turned around……"Delta, do it"]

[Wait~!]

The entire Empire persecuted the Demi-humans, at this point how is the general public not involved? Cam showed a slightly amazed voice. Then, mercilessly gave out the order.

The third explosion was heard, this time Gaharudo was grinding his teeth together as he was convinced that the publics buildings were bombed. But actually it was the drawbridge which allows entry into the Imperial castle. Since there will likely be reports coming from the capital about the explosions, the only route to enter the castle was destroyed.

In addition, Cam's words were partly a bluff, they never set any bombs in areas that weren't related to the army. The explosions weren't caused through remote methods either, a unit of Hauria's that sneaked into the castle had to manually set them off, due to this they couldn't set up bombs in many places.

[If you won't be pledging then we have no other choice. I'll have to set off every bomb we've set up in the capital, you Imperial aristocrats and leaders here will be lending a hand in it. Thousands of people will be accompanying each other to the otherside. It's not

a bad way to end huh?]

What he was saying was definitely terrorist-like. Who the heck taught him……though some glances were focused on the boy in the corner of the hall, the actual person was indifferent.

Towards the merciless demand, Gaharudo couldn't decide quickly and became silent. Though he was looking through his head for a method of breaking out of the current situation, no bright idea's came to mind. His expression was sour and breaking out in cold sweat, it showed that he was being cornered.

And despite that Cam didn't allow him any breathing room at all. Since the reply was slow he gave out orders.

["Delta, this is Alpha 1…….do-"]

[Wait~!]

Gaharudo called out in a panicking voice. And he slammed his head into the ground several times to calm himself down, looked up with a face as if giving up

[Shi—-, damn it all! I get it! It's my defeat! I'll accept your demands! That's why, stop taking lives indiscriminately through explosions!]

[That's excellent. Then pledge to the oath]

Even though the demands were accepted, Cam replied indifferently. Gaharudo could only show a bitter smile. And while relaxing his shoulders, he talked to the remaining survivors within the hall.

[Ha~a, damn, I'm sorry you guys. I was done in this time. …..In the Empire strength is everything. These Usagininzoku, the Haura, showed it through "bringing down the Imperial castle". Holding the lives of people. Hence, "As the representative of Hoelscher! All Demi-human slaves shall be freed! We shall never interfere with the Sea of Trees! Now at this time, the persecution and enslavement of Demi-humans is now prohibited! Those who break these vows shall be severely punished by the Empire! They shall also be enacted as new laws in the Empire!" If you guys have complaints, come to my

place! If you can beat me, you can do whatever you want afterwards!]

If you wanted to treat Demi-humans as slaves like always, exterminate all who hold Hoescher's blood! I'll take you on! he declared. He really was a man who adhered to the principles that abilities reigned supreme. Of course this judgement does no harm to the Empire besides their loss of relations with the Demi-humans, as expected, losing in a direct battle had quite a huge impact.

[Fumu, you've finally answered correctly]

Along with those words, spotlights showed down onto everyone in the Emperor's clan. The still young and oldest grandchildren who should not have been at the hall had a necklace with a bright red stone on their necks.

[If you don't want the Hoelscher blood to be exterminated, don't forget the oath]

[I know]

[The content of the oath will be made public tomorrow, at the very least liberate all the slaves in the capital by the end of tomorrow]

[By tomorrow? Just how many slaves do you think there are in the Empire……]

[Do it]

[You dirty bastard! I just have to do it right, I'll do it!]

[Free the slaves and send them directly to the Sea of Trees. Gaharudo. You must accompany them to Fair Bergen. And then repeat the oath in front of the elders]

[Alone? Wouldn't I normally be killed?]

[We'll return you back safely. If you died, various problems would arise?]

[Haa~, I got it. I've had a bad feeling ever since you guys broke out

of prison. To think that we'd be pushed this far. ……Na~a, do you have a grudge against me or the Empire, Hajime Nagumo?]

Gaharudo glared at Hajime through the darkness.

However there was no answer from Hajime. While holding Ririana by the neck like a kitten, he was leaning against the wall and yawning. Right now was the Haruia tribe's time to take the leading role. That's why, he seemed to take on the stance "I'm only a spectator in this affair".

There weren't any lights, even though Gaharudo couldn't see his appearance, he at least figured that Hajime had no intentions of answering. Gaharudo grandly clicked his tongue.

[Gaharudo, as a warning. We definitely obtained some help from our benefactor who changed us. However, that power had already became ours exclusively. If we wanted to, we could easily search for information and invade the castle at any time. It's easy to scratch your neck when sleeping. If you don't make the laws, even without the power of our benefactor our blades could easily cut your neck]

[Exclusive use. I'm quite jealous. To be able to use artifacts even though Demi-humans have no magical powers……]

Gaharudo's crushed and sour expressions weren't hard to believe. Because it was impossible for the Demi-humans to stand up against another race without magic, however with the use of artifacts that fact was easily destroyed.

However, it isn't enough to just say stop it, at best they could only curse out at them. [Jeez, what else could I do!], Gaharudo shouted his feelings towards Hajime.

His army was burning down because of the person who created an artifact which allowed him to fly in the air and travel the distance which should have taken 2 months into just a day and a half, if anyone were to be armed with artifacts of that stature then the Hauria's claim of being able to invade anywhere and carry out assassinations held lots of credibility.

By the way, what was used this time around was the “Spider-typed Golem Scout”, “Improved Telepathy Stone”, and the “Gate Key”.

The “Spider-type Golem Scout” was the spider that saved Ririana. It was approximately 5 centimeters in length, can go anywhere through remote control with “Transmuting” and “Thread”, the images are sent to the “Crystal Display” through the “Distance Transmitting Stone”, and it can sense magic traps just like the magic eye. It also has paralysis and sleeping poison in its feet, even poison which makes it so that the little sonny doesn’t get up.

After Hajime entered the castle, he scattered and installed countless spider-typed golems everywhere. The reason why Hajime was seemingly distracted while in the castle was because the majority of his concentration was used to operate the golems. It was only a coincidence that he saw and helped Ririana while moving towards an installation point.

And the images that the countless spider-typed surveillance cameras that were set up were being transmitted back to the crystal displays installed at Headquarters, each Hauria force had an operator who communicated through the “Improved Telepathy Stone”, which enabled efficient and precise suppression.

The “Improved Telepathy Stone” was the single and most useful artifact to use against Gaharudo.

The principle was this. Ore’s with the property of “High-Speed Magic Recovery” was created through Creation Magic and added into the magical power tanks which caused them to auto regen, it always added fuel back into it as “Magic Radiation” was being emitted.

And the magic formation needed to activate it was a kind of sliding switch which was placed on it to allow it to smoothly activate on and off. Furthermore, there was a function which responded to the blood and status plate, meaning only the blood of the user would be accepted.

As a result, the Hauria forces were able to cooperate elaborately with Headquarters which was stationed outside of the capital.

Since they can't actually operate the golems, without Hajime they'd have to manually place the spider-typed surveillance cameras. For that purpose, they infiltrated into the castle and installed the new hidden camera's for the Haruia. Because the golems were unnecessarily complex, they were made to be hard to spot.

Moreover, the key-typed artifact "Gate Key" held a similar principle, because Hajime set up and concealed the keyhole-typed artifact "Gate Hall" in places, the Hauria are able to invade the castle anytime through opening the gate.

Really, from the Empire's view, [What else could I do!], was definitely the right state.

To begin with, the magic traps are difficult to disarm without being able to directly manipulate magical power, so the fact is, another invasion would probably never be as smooth as this one.

Hajime and them purposely used Kouki to enter the castle, besides installing the spider-typed golem scouts, they were also to disarm traps that the golems discovered. Hajime and Shia in particular, Yue and Shia had to use the "Presence Severing Stone" to easily hide their presence, Kaori also acted, the magic traps were disarmed without notice before the party began.

For now, though there were artifacts devised to disarm magic traps, Fairglass (a goggle-typed artifact which could detect magic traps) was distributed to the Hauria, however this time they had no time for that. That's why although they wouldn't be able to disarm the traps, they could evade them instead.

[Don't worry about it, Gaharudo. The artifacts only belong to the Haruia and no other Demi-humans. Now that you've swore to the oath, it wouldn't do for us to get full of ourselves and attack the Empire. If that happens, we Hauria will wield our blades against the foolish people of Fair Bergen]

Towards those words, Gaharudo guessed that the Hauria were independent from Fair Bergen, however they single-mindedly interfered in order to save their fellow Demi-humans (although it was actually only for the Usagininzoku).

[Is that so. I get the idea now. That's why, release us already. An unreasonable request was made to be done by tomorrow. If I don't act now I probably wouldn't be able to make it on time]

[……That's good. We Hauria will always be watching you guys. Don't even think about forgetting it in your dreams either]

Towards those last words, the spotlights disappeared and silence surrounded the hall. At the same time that his presence perception informed him that the Hauria were withdrawing, Hajime received a transmission.

—-Boss. This is Alpha 1. All troops have withdrawn. For all the help, we cannot thank you enough

—-It was for Shia's sake. Don't mind it. Besides, everythings not over yet. Stay cautious. Or rather, what's up ahead is the true battle. There's no guarantee that there wouldn't be an idiot who'll think "Eliminate the Emperor's clan".

—-I'll take it to heart, boss. Since the beginning, we've been resoluted and prepared to fight. This path, is the path that the new Hauria tribe has decided to walk down.

Towards Cam's words filled with resolution and drive, Hajime's lips raised up. And he gave them a pure praise.

—-Is that so. If you're resolute then there's nothing else for it. To all Hauria tribesmen. You were superb!

Towards the boss who they loved, respected and led them, all Hauria's Usamimis extended straight up! and after a beat passed by.

In the next moment through the telepathy stone, a grand shout erupted.

—-Oo~OOOOOOOOOO!!!!

That was the cry of victory. For hundreds of years, they were the losers of losers who continued suffering bitter experiences, it was the cry of delight after finally bringing down a huge enemy for the first time.

Being completely honest, what lays ahead is a sight where it's prohibited to enslave and persecute Demi-humans, prohibited to interfere with the Sea of Trees, and Demi-humans are protected. Exactly as Hajime said, people who desired Demi-humans as slaves would come and try to eradicate the Emperor's clan, there's even a possibility that there's a hole in the oath which the Empire may use to oppress the Demi-humans again.

That's exactly why, it was appropriate to say that the Hauria's battle starts now.

At the very least, the oath was imposed, by now, if the Empire invades the Sea of Trees, the Hauria wouldn't be able to do anything. With this earned time, the Hauria can save and gather power and numbers, and if necessary acquire high level techniques (Assassination) and guerrilla tactics. That way, even if the Empire is prepared to overcome the Oath, they won't get what they want so easily.

Right, the point of the strategy right now was to make the people at the top of the Empire wear collars and buy time to allow the Hauria to gather strength to be able to withstand the Empire. As such, certainly, the victor of this fight was unmistakably the Hauria Usagininzoku from the weakest Demi-human species.

[Damn, those guys, I shouldn't have left them unattended. …..Someone, the lights….a~a, that's right is anyone there…..tte, kora~a! Hajime Nagumo! You bastard, how long do you plan on pretending! At any rate, you're uninjured! Do something about this situation!]

Hajime narrowed his eyes as the Hauria's shout of joy was being communicated, at the same time Shia was embracing and rubbing up on Hajime because of the strategies success, from the other side (even in the darkness Hajime could see Gaharudo's appearance rolling around) of the darkness, and began to hear Gaharudo's angry voice.

By the way, the moment that he was embraced by Shia, Ririana who he was holding onto was cast aside without hesitation. Towards the sudden attack which caused the death of her fiance,

Ririana could only be stunned, after being treated so by Hajime, with tears in her eyes, [Even though, I'm a Princess～!], while muttering about her constant grief, she crumbled onto the ground like a woman who was deserted by her lover.

[alright, I hear you……]

While embracing Shia with one hand, he took out an ore from the "Treasure Warehouse" which flew up towards the ceiling and emitted light. The light stone that floated towards the ceiling in the darkness caused the hall to brighten up just like daytime when they were brought to the hall.

The party hall became completely visible, "horrifying" was the perfect word for it. There were huge quantities of blood splattered everywhere and countless heads on the ground. Besides the heads on the ground which didn't have time to say goodbyes, everyone else seemed to be alright, though they were all groaning and crawling on the floor with their tendons in their hands and feet cut.

There were lots of mademoiselles who had toilet accidents due to the fear and pain. The moment when the hall was lit up and the disastrous scene was seen, many lost their consciousness, in a certain sense it was good fortune.

Though some of the courageous mademoiselles were just barely conscious, the moment they saw Shia's Usamimis, they gave out screams and fainted as the whites in their eyes showed. Even the men who didn't fear much was frightened when they saw Shia.

It appears that the fear of the Hauria tribe was deeply carved into them.

Within that, Hajime's group and the Hero's group was clearly completely unhurt. The people who were fighting until they end were giving them stares full of hatred. It appears that they completely believed that it was a conspiracy.

[Oi, kora, Hajime Nagumo. Quit flirting already and help out. What kind of nerves do you have to be able to admire a woman in this situation, and on top of that an Usagininzoku woman at that]

[Nah, look, Shia's a weak rabbit after all, the raid from earlier frightened her. She's so pitiful. Those guys were truly fearsome people. All I could do was protect myself]

While saying those foolish things, Hajime was shivering unnaturally.

Veins appeared on Gaharudo's forehead. Even the people whose tongues were cut to seal off there chants, while on the ground glared at them cruelly as if stating, [We'll kill you with glares!]. Kouki and them who had strong nerves even trembled from the gazes.

[How impudent…..in any case, it doesn't change the fact that you're unhurt. If you hold no malice against the Empire then, nurse us, being needed by people is good isn't it*I think this line means this, 人を呼ぶなりしてくれてもいいんじゃねぇか*?]

[However about that, your subordinates are giving out blood thirst as if saying that the instant they're healed they'll attack us……In that case, is it alright if I just finish them off?]

[There's no way that's alright! Oi, you guys! Don't ever lay your hands on that monster over there! Even if he's just a damn cheeky brat whos always being surrounded by great women and surely started a conspiracy with the Haruia tribe, don't you dare go waste your lives!]

The surviving subordinate's eyes distort due to their masters command for them to stay alive with regret. Hajime saw their eyes distorting.

[Look, even if I want to kill you guys, there's no one here stupid enough to willingly jump into a monster's jaws. I won't have it. If we don't get started soon some people are going to bleed out. I'm begging you, Hajime Nagumo]

[Ma～a, I don't particularly mind if you guys won't be coming at me. I'm relying on you, Kaori]

[Un～, leave it to me…..”Sacred Text”!]

Without chanting. Without magic formations. the wave of first-class recovery magic shined immediately after calling out the magic name and rippled throughout the entire party hall. With that the wounded people were healed up instantly.

[Even recovery skills are monster class. ……I can't take this*I think? やってられねぇな*]

Gaharudo complained with a tired expression after he noticed that Kaori's recovery magic wasn't normal. Gaharudo's subordinates were dumbfounded as well to be completely healed in an instant. To be able to immediately cast first-class magic was impossible for the general people so it was natural.

Disregarding the mademoiselles who fainted and didn't get back up, those who could fight immediately gathered around Gaharudo and they looked towards Hajime with stern and cautioned expressions.

[I've already said it, give it up already. If you release blood lust like awhile ago and cause a counterattack we'd all get completely annihilated]

[But your Majesty! These guys clearly guided them in!]

[That's right! Even the Crowned Prince……we can't just leave them alone!]

[At this rate the Empire's pride will fall to the ground!]

Gaharudo's troublesome subordinates all speak out in sequence.

Even though they felt that Kaori's recovery magic wasn't normal, they had not witnessed Hajime's powers with their own eyes. Moreover, some of them previously saw Kouki and the Emperor's fight at the Kingdom, because of this they "alternatively" used it as reference.

Above that, the damage that the Hauria caused was massive. After all, they placed a "Curse" on the present Emperor and his clan, although that was largely the reason, it was also because the next-in-term Emperor was beheaded. They couldn't back down easily.

Towards the subordinates rage, Gaharudo sighed out while gaining drive. For them who groaned and staggered, Gaharudo's voice filled with dignity turned towards the people within the hall.

[Quit making so much noise! I believe I've already said, don't go dying pointlessly. Got it, that white haired eyepatch wearing fellow is a true flesh and blood monster. Even if we brought out an entire army, he alone would annihilate it, that's who we're facing. …… They're strong, don't even step on their shadows. I'm not saying we have to follow what that guy says but, as people who adhere to the principle that abilities reign supreme, at least have the ability to judge the opponents strength!]

With an angry and shaking voice, the subordinates and even the aristocrats stiffen up.

[It goes the same for the Hauria tribe. Those guys who should have had the weakest power came and challenged the entire Empire. The reason why we were done in was because we were stupid and weak? I don't intend to leave things off like this, those guys also probably think the same……but first admit it. We lost. The losers follow the victor. That is the Empire's rule! Even still, if you have a complaint then let me hear it! Convince me through power, make me follow you! Just like those guys did!]

Gaharudo's angry voice echoed throughout the party hall. Those who couldn't stand looked towards him, after the subordinates around Gaharudo hesitated slightly, they hung their heads down before him. Deep within themselves they knew, the one who fought until the final moment was Gaharudo. Gaharudo's words, more than anything was heavy.

[Un, with this it's case closed]

Towards Hajime's satisfied words, everyone turned to look at Hajime with hatred. Those gazes spoke more than words. That is, [You're one to talk! You God of Plague!].

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surviving Empire soldiers had to face the reality that they were unable to meaninglessly throw away their lives, Little by little they regain their composure because of Gaharudo.

Although the drawbridge was destroyed empire soldiers began to arrive at the castle and the silent party hall began to become noisy once again, control was quickly brought back from the confusing situation.

Leaders of the survivors were gathered, despite being in the middle of night they were holding an emergency meeting to adhere the oaths. Mid-way in, one of the leaders who wasn't at the party hall laughed at the foolish contents of the oath……

That moment, the lights in the conference room instantaneously died out, when the lights came back on the horror of a subordinate's head laying on the table appeared, it was the subordinate of the man who was opposing them. The man could do nothing but nod away while turning pale. The other leaders were reminded of the party and began to tremble. The later talks seemed to have been settled quickly.

While compiling damage reports from every place, the laws for the Demi-humans were rapidly made (the draft prepared by the Hauria). At this point, Gaharudo found out that the Hauria had not laid their hands on the general public.

However, from the fact that none of the general facilities were reported to have been destroyed through explosions, he received a message that it was possible to blow them up at anytime and began to worry substantially because of all the possible bombs planted in their facilities.

And within the middle of the night, soldiers were woken up because of the explosions, their individually owned slaves were guided to the countless temporarily raised tents on the open plot of land from the previous demon turmoil. They immediately began to retrieve the slaves in the next building where slaves were being held.

Naturally, fierce resistance was bound to happen. Just when they were woken up in the middle of night, the owned slaves were being

forcefully seized. In particular, the slave association was showing symptoms of becoming bankrupted. Financial compensation was promised to be given at a later time, even though it was a royal command by the Emperor, they weren't able to easily consent to it.

Nevertheless, it was a direct order from the country, they had no choice but to compromise…..stretching time in between then and now, there were many who folded and whined, roughly all of those people were found beheaded in the morning.

And when the afternoon of the next day came to pass, an abnormal situation with Demi-humans gathered in one place in the capital caused citizens to gather and the announcement from the Empire was announced. About the consent of the oath and the additional laws that were established.

Towards the bluntly reported announcement, the citizens became dumbfounded. That was to be expected. Their familiar and convenient tools were suddenly taken away from them. Moreover, it was forbidden to capture them in the future. The situation was honestly one where they couldn't comprehend.

Eventually, the obvious and natural complaints began to flow out and it quickly became a large and strong opposition. It was about to become a riot, the Empire soldiers began defending the Demi-human slaves from the people in cold sweat, but it became quiet after the announcement made with exquisite timing.

In other words,

[All actions towards Demi-humans was because an "Oracle" from "Ehto-sama"!]

Furthermore, with the appearance of Kaori who fluttered her silver wings and was shining as she descended down from the sky, Kouki showed the light and appearance of his sacred sword. As a result, the announcement held credibility.

Towards the divine appearance (being produced by Hajime's artifacts) the citizens all got down on one knee and prayed.

Actually, Kaori was trying hard not to run away as she was blushing in shame, if Kaori felt like it, the silver feathers that were being worshiped by the citizens, [Thank you~], could easily be turned into weapons that decomposed everything, Gaharudo who was at wits end on how to explain the laws and emancipation of slaves was simply proposed, [wouldn't it be alright if we just use Ehto?], Hajime who was in high spirits was chuckling to himself about how amusing it was that the citizens were so serious……Everyone could surely faint peacefully together.

Obtaining and holding onto "God's Apostle's feathers", reluctantly the slave owners backed down as there was also compensation from the country and the majority of citizens were cheerful. In front of their eyes, several thousands of slave's shackles were being removed by the soldiers one after the other.

The Demi-humans seemed to have been stunned but accepted it with silence. Being completely honest they weren't sure about what was happening at the moment. Even if they understood they likely wouldn't be able to believe it.

Before long, with some time the slave's shackles were all removed and Kouki who showed natural charisma led the Demi-humans outside of the capital. Along with him was also obviously Gaharudo as well as Hajime and them.

The Demi-humans were stunned as they left the capital, amplifying her voice with physical reinforcement Shia shouted out, [You guys are free~! Return to your homes~!], they finally seemed to realize that they were "liberated" and they all shouted out in joy all at once which caused the ground to shake.

Under the cheerful blue sky, while at the Empire's outer walls, several thousands of Demi-humans headed towards home. Towards the impossible illusion, tears were falling down and Demi-humans were joyfully patting eachothers shoulders.

Within those, there were many who received cruel physical and mental wounds as well, but they were healed through Reproduction Magic and Spirit Magic. Because even Yue couldn't accurately erase their memories enmass, she compromised that it was necessary for

them to be surrounded by family and friends in the long-term.

There were also many Demi-humans that were transported to many different towns, Hajime and them couldn't be responsible to heal them. They as well, after returning to the Sea of Trees, have no choice but to allow their minds to be supported by the people around them.

Even still, they'll be able to once again live in their hometown, they can meet their important people that they were separated from once again…..it was surely suitable to call this event a "Miracle".
Hajime who was looking at the Demi-humans shouting in joy, began thinking about his family in Japan, [Someday I too will……], he muttered inside himself and quietly clenched Yue's hand who snuggled up closely. The cute lover was as if saying, [It's alright], gently returned strength into Hajime's hand.

Chapter 121

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Status Plates

＝＝＝＝＝＝＝＝＝＝＝

Nagumo Hajime (南雲ハジメ) Strength 10950 > 12150

17 yo M Vitality 13190 > 14250

Transmuter (錬成師) Resist 10670 > 11870

Lv ??? > ??? Agility 13450 > 14550

ch 25 > 122 Magic 14780 > 15980

Adventurer Rank: Gold Magic Resist 14780 > 15980

Hero of the series. Originally a gentle, quiet otaku boy, but was labelled incompetant -> bullied -> fell into the abyss -> left arm was eaten -> became OP -> mindset changed: now talks with guns-first. Harem happened (though he treats Yue alone as special). Seeks to conquer the Great Dungeons so he can return home to Japan. (Author Note: stats are temporary, don't worry too much about it)

錬成 Transmutation

[＋鉱物系鑑定] ＋ Mineral Appraisal

[＋精密錬成] ＋ Precision Transmutation

[＋鉱物系探査] ＋ Mineral Enquiry

[＋鉱物分離] ＋ Mineral Separation

[＋鉱物融合] ＋ Mineral Fusion

[＋複製錬成] ＋ Replication Transmutation

[＋圧縮錬成] ＋ Compression Transmutation

[＋高速錬成] ＋ High-speed Transmutation

[＋自動錬成] ＋ Automatic Transmutation

[＋イメージ補強力上昇] ＋ Image Reinforcement Power Increase

[＋消費魔力減少] ＋ Magic Consumption Reduction

[＋鉱物分解] ＋ Mineral Decomposition

魔力操作 Magic Manipulation

[＋魔力放射] ＋ Magic Emission

[＋魔力圧縮] ＋ Magic Compression

[＋遠隔操作] ＋ Remote Control

胃酸強化 Stomach Acid Strengthening (Iron Stomach)

纏雷 Lightning Armor (Lightning Clad)

[＋雷耐性] ＋ Lightning Resistance

[＋出力増大] ＋ Output Increase

天歩 Sky Walk (Divine Step)

[＋空力] ＋ Void Grip (Air Walk/Aerodynamic)

[＋縮地] ＋ Shukuchi (Instant Movement/Flicker/Ground Shrink)

[＋豪脚] ＋ Grand Legs

[＋瞬光] ＋ Lightspeed

風爪 Wind Claw (Air Claw)

[＋三爪] ＋ Triple Claws

[＋飛爪] ＋ Flying Claws

夜目 Night Vision

遠見 Far Vision

気配感知 Perception

[＋特定感知] ＋ Specific Perception

魔力感知 Magic Perception

[＋特定感知] ＋ Specific Perception

熱源感知 Heat Perception

[＋特定感知] ＋ Specific Perception

気配遮断 Hide Presence (Sign Interception)

[＋幻踏] ＋ Phantom Dance (Phantom Step)

毒耐性 Poison Resistance

麻痺耐性 Paralysis Resistance

石化耐性 Petrification Resistance

恐慌耐性 Panic Resistance

全属性耐性 All Elements Resistance

先読 Foresight

金剛 Vajra (Indestructible)

[＋部分強化] ＋ Specific Reinforcement

[＋集中強化] ＋ Concentrated Reinforcement

[＋付与強化] ＋ Grant Reinforcement

豪腕 Grand Arm

威圧 Coercion (Pressure/Intimidation)

念話 Telepathy

追跡 Tracking

高速魔力回復 High-speed Magic Recovery

[＋魔素集束] ＋ Mana Focusing

魔力変換 Magic Conversion

[＋体力変換] ＋ Vitality Conversion

[＋治癒力変換] ＋ Healing Conversion

[＋衝撃変換] ＋ Impact Conversion

限界突破 Limit Break (x3 all stats buff)

生成魔法 Creation Magic

重力魔法 Gravity Magic

空間魔法 Space Magic

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

言語理解 Language Comprehension

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* Weapon names (German/German pronounciation):

ドンナー・シュラーク Donner & Schlag (“Thunder & Shock”), (rail)revolvers

シュラーゲン Schlagen (“Knockout”), anti-materiel (rail)rifle

メツェライ Metzelei (“Slaughter”), gatling (rail)gun

オルカン Orkan (“Hurricane”), rocket & missile launcher

ヒュペリオン Hyperion (“Sun God”), laser satellite

フェルニル Ferner (“Further”), airship

* Automatic Transmutation:

Automatically transmutes materials in a magic formation until the magic in the formation is exhausted.

* Mineral Decomposition:

By carefully permeating magic, mineral bonds can be unbound. It’s possible to decompose up to the smallest unit, but is time consuming. Unusable in combat. Skill used to process sand-like minerals.

* Triple Claws:

Whereas the old bear claw would fire one, this fires three identical wind blades.

* Flying Claws:

Wind blades now fly.

Yue Strength 120 > 220

323 yo F Vitality 300 > 450

Sorceress (神子) Resist 60 > 100

Lv 75 > 82 Agility 120 > 220

ch 67 > 122 Magic 6980 > 9180

Adventurer Rank: Gold Magic Resist 7120 > 9320

Main heroine of the series. Imprisoned in the abyss, was saved by Hajime. Most skilled magic user in this world. Also Hajime's most skilled ero-opponent. For the time being, classed as a Kuudere. Kuudere + bewitching + vampire princess + loli attributes.

自動再生 Auto Regeneration

[＋痛覚操作] + Pain Control

[＋再生操作] + Regeneration Control

全属性適性 All Elements Aptitude

複合魔法 Compound Magic

魔力操作 Magic Manipulation

[＋魔力放射] + Magic Emission

[＋魔力圧縮] + Magic Compression

[＋遠隔操作] + Remote Control

[＋効率上昇] ＋ Increased Efficiency

[＋魔素吸収] ＋ Mana Absorption

[＋身体強化] ＋ Body Strengthening

想像構成 Imagination Composition

[＋イメージ補強力上昇] ＋ Image Reinforcement Power Up

[＋複数同時構成] ＋ Multiple Simultaneous Composition

[＋遅延発動] ＋ Delayed Invocation

血力変換 Blood Conversion

[＋身体強化] ＋ Body Strengthening

[＋魔力変換] ＋ Magic Conversion

[＋体力変換] ＋ Vitality Conversion

[＋血盟契 約] ＋ Blood Oath Contract

高速魔力回復 High-speed Magic Recovery

生成魔法 Creation Magic

重力魔法 Gravity Magic

空間魔法 Space Magic

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

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* Blood Oath Contract: (ch.67)

Drastic efficiency increase when blood is drained from a contracted person (ie: Hajime).

* Imagination Composition: (ch.67)

Magic formations can be completed with only a mental image

(ie: chantless/formationless magic).

* Regeneration Control:

Can freely control regeneration ability.

Shia Houria Strength 60 > 100

16 yo F Vitality 80 > 120

Diviner (占術師) Resist 60 > 100

Lv 40 > 48 Agility 85 > 130

ch 67 > 122 Magic 3020 > 3800

Adventurer Rank: Gold Magic Resist 3180 > 4000

Heroine. Bunny Girl. Perky, energetic, frivolous. But has

recently turned into a splendid person. Demi-humans are unable

to use magic, but Shia is able to directly manipulate magic

despite that. Has no magical aptitude, but can use body

strengthening to a degree that makes her a bugged character.

Disappointing beauty + rabbit + desu + naive attributes.

未来視 Future Sight

[＋自動発動] ＋ Automatic Invocation

[＋仮定未来] ＋ Future Prediction

[＋天啓視] ＋ Divine Revelation Sight

魔力操作 Magic Manipulation

[＋身体強化] ＋ Body Strengthening

[＋部分強化] ＋ Specific Strengthening

[＋変換効率上昇III] ＋ Conversion Efficiency Up III

[＋集中強化] ＋ Concentration Strengthening

重力魔法 Gravity Magic

空間魔法 Space Magic

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

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* Weapon names (German/German pronounciation):

ドリュッケン Drücken (“Press”), sledgehammer ＋ shotgun

* Divine Revelation Sight:

Can glimpse a few seconds ahead into the future. Unlike Future Prediction it doesn’t consume magic so it can be continuously active.

* Conversion Efficiency Up III:

Converts magic to physical stats (Str/Vit/Res/Agi) at a 1:3 ratio (ie: 3800 ＝ ＋11400).

Tio Kurarusu Strength 770 > 880 [+Dragon Form 4620 > 8800]

563 yo F Vitality 1100 > 1250 [+Dragon Form 6600 > 12500]

Guardian (守護者) Resist 1100 > 1250 [+Dragon Form 6600 > 12500]

Lv 89 > 93 Agility 580 > 700 [+Dragon Form 3480 > 7000]

ch 67 > 122 Magic 4590 > 4990

Adventurer Rank: Gold Magic Resist 4220 > 4620

Pervert. Hajime opened a new door for her when he used his Pile Bunker on her weak spot. A prudent, intellectual, mature spirit… or should have been. Heroine. no ja + kimono + watermelons + shapeshifter attributes.

竜化 Dragon Form

[+竜鱗硬化] + Dragonscale Hardening

[+魔力効率上昇] + Magic Efficiency Up

[+身体能力上昇II] + Body Ability Up II

[+咆哮] + Roar

[+風纏] + Wind Armor (Wind Clad)

[+痛覚変換II] + Pain Control II

魔力操作 Magic Manipulation

[＋魔力放射] ＋ Magic Emission

[＋魔力圧縮] ＋ Magic Compression

[＋遠隔操作] ＋ Remote Control

火属性適性 Fire Element Aptitude

[＋魔力消費減少] ＋ Mana Consumption Reduction

[＋効果上昇] ＋ Effect Up

[＋持続時間上昇] ＋ Duration Up

風属性適性 Wind Element Aptitude

[＋魔力消費減少] ＋ Mana Consumption Reduction

[＋効果上昇] ＋ Effect Up

[＋持続時間上昇] ＋ Duration Up

[＋雷属性] ＋ Lightning Element

複合魔法 Compound Magic

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

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* Dragonscale Hardening: (ch.67)

Hardness can be increased by expending magic. Can also increase Dragon Form’s base stats and resistances.

* Pain Control II:

High level ability to freely convert pain into energy,

increasing all stats. In addition it is possible to store the converted energy. However the energy can only be stored when still feeling lingering pain.

* Lightning Element:

Lightning magic is classified as higher ranked wind magic, this allows lightning magic to be used at the same level as wind magic.

Shirasaki Kaori (白崎香織) Strength 280 > 1200

17 yo F Vitality 460 > 1200

Healer (治癒師) Resist 360 > 1200

Lv 72 > 10 Agility 380 > 1200

ch 71 > 122 Magic 1380 > 1200

Magic Resist 1380 > 1200

Heroine. An unfortunate, regular schoolgirl that had her love interest, Hajime, stolen from her… or so it seems. Feelings of love for Hajime sprouted during her second year of middle school. Became consciously aware of her feelings after Hajime fell into the abyss. When they reunited, forcibly joined the party when she became aware of Yue stealing Hajime away.

Currently possessing the body of the Apostle of God, Nointo.

Classmate + airhead + Stand (JoJo reference to her Hannya mask) + pitiable attributes.

回復魔法 Recovery Magic

[＋回復効果上昇] + Effect Up

[＋回復速度上昇] + Recovery Speed Up

[＋イメージ補強力上昇] + Image Reinforcement Power Up

[＋浸透看破] + Osmosis Penetration [?]

[＋範囲回復効果上昇] + Effect Range Up

[＋遠隔回復効果上昇] + Remote Recovery Effect Up

[＋状態異常 回復効果上昇] + Abnormal Status Recovery Effect Up

[＋消費魔力減少] + Magic Consuption Down

[＋魔力効率上昇] + Magic Efficiency Up

[＋連続発動] + Consecutive Invocation

[＋複数同時発動] + Multiple Invocation

[＋遅延発動] + Delayed Invocation

[＋付加発動] + Addition Invocation

光属性適性 Light Element Aptitude

[＋発動速度上昇] + Movement Speed Up

[＋効果上昇] + Effect Up

[＋持続時間上昇] + Duration Up

[＋連続発動] ＋ Consecutive Invocation

[＋複数同時発動] ＋ Multiple Invocation

[＋遅延発動] ＋ Delayed Invocation

高速魔力回復 High-speed Magic Recovery

[＋瞑想] ＋ Meditation

再生魔法 Regeneration Magic

魂魄魔法 Spirit Magic

言語理解 Language Comprehension

双大剣術 Greatsword Dual-wielding Proficiency

分解能力 Disintegration Ability (Decomposition Ability)

全属性適性 All Elements Aptitude

複合魔法 Compound Magic

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* The broken greatswords and wargear were replaced by Hajime.

* Nointo's enchantment, infinite magic supply and pseudo-Limit Break are disabled.

* Original Apostle's stats are all 12000. Kaori doesn't have full control of the body yet.

Amanokawa Kouki * Strength 880 > 1020

17 yo M Vitality 880 > 1020

Hero (勇者) Resist 880 > 1020

Lv 72 > 83 Agility 880 > 1020

ch 71 > 122 Magic 880 > 1020

Magic Resist 880 > 1020

(*天之河光輝) Hero (lol). A bundle of good and justice. However since he never thinks he's wrong, he has a bad habit of interpreting adverse situations to his own convenience. Kaori, Shizuku and Ryutaro are childhood friends.

全属性適正 All Elements Aptitude

[＋光属性効果上昇] ＋ Light Element Effect Up

[＋発動速度上昇] ＋ Movement Speed Up

全属性耐性 All Elements Resistance

[＋光属性効果上昇] ＋ Light Element Effect Up

物理耐性 Physical Resistance

[＋治癒力上昇] ＋ Recovery Power Up

[＋衝撃緩和] ＋ Impact Allevation

複合魔法 Compound Magic

剣術 Sword Proficiency

[＋無念無想] ＋ Clear Mind

剛力 Herculean Strength

縮地 Shukuchi (Instant Movement/Flicker/Ground Shrink)

[＋爆縮地] ＋ Explosive Shukuchi

先読 Foresight

高速魔力回復 High-speed Magic Recovery

気配感知 Perception

魔力感知 Magic Perception

限界突破 Limit Break (x3 all stats buff)

[＋覇潰] ＋ Supreme Destruction (x5 all stats buff)

言語理解 Language Comprehension

Yaegashi Shizuku * Strength 450 > 650

17 yo F Vitality 560 > 760

Swordswoman (剣士) Resist 320 > 520

Lv 72 > 83 Agility 1110 > 1480

ch 71 > 122 Magic 380 > 580

Magic Resist 380 > 580

(*八重樫雫) I wonder if she's a heroine… Best friend of Kaori.

Kouki and Ryutaro's childhood friend. Her home is a kendo dojo.

Primary feature of this dignified girl is her ponytail. Has an

excellent grasp of human subtleties and relationships, her

innate personality won't let her ignore trouble around her giving her a lot of hardships [?]. Recently though she's been depending too much on someone else…

剣術 Sword Skill

[＋斬撃速度上昇] ＋ Slashing Speed Up

[＋抜刀速度上昇] ＋ Drawing Sword Velocity Up

[＋無拍子] ＋ Mubyoushi

縮地 Shukuchi (Instant Movement/Flicker/Ground Shrink)

[＋爆縮地] ＋ Explosive Shukuchi

[＋重縮地] ＋ Heavy Shukuchi [?]

[＋震脚] ＋ Seismic Leg

[＋無拍子] ＋ Mubyoushi

先読 Foresight

[＋投影] ＋ Projection

気配感知 Perception

隠業 Hidden Action

[＋幻撃] ＋ Phantom Strike

言語理解 Language Comprehension

Sakagami Ryuutarou * Strength 820 > 980

17 yo M Vitality 820 > 980

Brawler (拳士) Resist 680 > 790

Lv 72 > 83 Agility 550 > 650

ch 71 > 122 Magic 280 > 350

Magic Resist 280 > 350

(*坂上龍太郎) Muscle brain.

格闘術 Martial Arts

[＋身体強化] ＋ Body Strengthening

[＋部分強化] ＋ Specific Strengthening

[＋集中強化] ＋ Concentrated Strengthening

[＋浸透破壊] ＋ Penetration Destruction

縮地 Shukuchi (Instant Movement/Flicker/Ground Shrink)

[＋爆縮地] ＋ Explosive Shukuchi

物理耐性 Physical Resistance

[＋金剛] ＋ Vajra (Indestructible)

全属性耐性 All Elements Resistance

言語理解 Language Comprehension

Taniguchi Suzu (谷口鈴) Strength 350

17 yo F Vitality 450

Barrier Mage (結界師) Resist 450

Lv 83 Agility 380

ch 122 Magic 820

Magic Resist 580

Chimikko. Mood maker of the class. Unsung hero of the Hero party. A dirty old man at heart.

結界術適性 Barrier Magic Aptitude

[＋魔力効率上昇] ＋ Mana Efficiency Up

[＋発動速度上昇] ＋ High-speed Invocation Up

[＋遠隔操作] ＋ Remote Control

[＋連続発動] ＋ Continuous Activation

光属性適性 Light Element Aptitude

[＋障壁適性連動] ＋ Barrier Aptitude Link

言語理解 Language Comprehension

＝＝＝

Little girl of the Sea-race. Was saved by Hajime from an underground Führen slave auction.

Her father died before she was born, so she comes to love the strong and kind Hajime as her

new father. She's so important to him that Hajime made a new oath. She likes ending her

sentences in "nano". With the exception of Yue, she is the only person Hajime is completely

weak against.

Remia 24 yo F

Myu's mother. A gentle beauty. An undine widow whose soothes people with her "ara ara, ufufu".

Hajime often cannot tell whether she is serious or joking. Restrains Hajime's party with her

mature woman charm.

Classmates

Hatayama Aiko (畑山愛子) 25 yo F, Farmer (作農師)

Social Studies teacher. Has a reverse harem of Temple Knights (though her head is full of

concern for her students so she doesn't notice).

Nakamura Eri (中村恵里) 17 yo F, Necromancer (降霊術師)

Betrayed her classmates to the demons. Used her original darkness magic "Soul Bind" to

manipulate countless numbers of dead puppet soldiers. Valuable Bokummusume [?].

Nagayama Jugo (永山重) 17 yo M, Heavy Brawler (重格闘家)

Frontline party leader. Old man face.

Nomura Kentaro (野村健太郎) 17 yo M, Earth Mage (土術師)

Nagayama party member. Best friends with Nagayama and Endo. Likes Ayako Tsuji.

Endo Kosuke (遠藤浩介) 17 yo M, Assassin (暗殺者)

Nagayama party member. Has an extremely weak presence. Isn't noticed by labyrinth monsters

or automatic doors.

Tsuji Ayako (辻綾子) 17 yo F, Healer (治癒師)

Nagayama party member. Same class as Kaori, her healing skills are a bit more complex though.

Yoshino Mao (吉野真央) 17 yo F, Enchanter (付与術士)

Nagayama party member. Unsung hero of the party.

Hiyama Daisuke (檜山大介) 17 yo M, Light Warrior (軽戦士)

Leader of the bullies harassing Hajime. Perpetrator who dropped him into the abyss. Blackmailed

by Eri in the beginning, but later killed many of the country's knights and soldiers of his own

volition in order to obtain Kaori. He met a gruesome end when Hajime fed him alive to some

monsters after finally going to town on him.

Nakano Shinji (中野信治) 17 yo M, Water Mage (水術師)

Hiyama gang member.

Saito Yoshiki (斎藤良樹) 17 yo M, Wind Mage (風術師)

Hiyama gang member.

Kondo Reiichi (近藤礼一) 17 yo M, Spear Warrior (槍術師)

Hiyama gang member. Became prey to Eri's Soul Bind.

Aikawa Noboru (相川昇) 17 yo M, –

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Kawahara Akira (河原明) 17 yo M, –

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Tamai Atsushi (玉井淳) 17 yo M, –

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Sugawara Taeko (菅原妙子) 17 yo F, –

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Miyazaki Nana (宮崎奈々) 17 yo F, –

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Sonobe Yuka (園部優香) 17 yo F, –

Ai-chan bodyguard member.

Shimizu Yukitoshi (清水幸利) 17 yo M, Dark Mage (闇術師)

Raised an army of monsters to distinguish himself in this new world. As a result he was

left on the verge of death after a demon's suprise attack, after which Hajime terminated him.

Heilig Kingdom

Elhild = S = B = Heilig

King. Killed by Eri during the Imperial City invasion.

Luluaria = S = B = Heilig

Queen. Rarely appears, but assists in the background. Has an equally weak presence like a

certain someone [?].

Randell = S = B = Heilig

Prince. 10 yo. Handsome youth with blonde hair and blue eyes. Was infatuated with Kaori, but

gave up after meeting Hajime. Currently heartbroken from losing his first love.

Liliana = S = B = Heilig

Princess. 14 yo. Talented and enormously popular within the kingdom. Has been harbouring

feelings of love ever since she was saved by Hajime, however his treatment of her hasn't

changed so recently she's a rather pitiable character.

Meld = Loggins

Knight team captain. Died by Eri's hands. Most unfortunate death.

Jose = Rancaid

Knight vice-captain of the same team. Likewise killed by Eri.

Alan = Smith

Knight background character, regularly appears [?]. Also dead.

Kuzeri = Rail

New knight team captain. A woman knight originally serving as an Imperial Guard under Liliana.

Niito = Komorudo

New knight team vice-captain. Previously the commander of the third corps.

Adventurer Guild

Ilwa = Chang

Führen branch chief. Awarded Hajime a gold rank and provides him with support. A person who

gave Hajime a lot of work (trouble).

Dot = Clowe

Ilwa's head secretary. Like Shizuku, suffers a lot of hardships.

Catherine

Former head secretary of the guild master. An old lady that personifies the cruelty of time.

Loa = Bawabisu

Horuado branch chief. Tsundere.

Barusu = Raputa

Guild master. May have spells of destruction [?].

Ankaji Dukedom

Ranzi = Forward = Zengen

Ankaji dukedom's lord. Had a falling out with the church, (漢気溢れる) nice middle [?].

Bizu = Forward = Zengen

Ranzi's son. Attracted to Kaori. Facial expressions at the gunshot level when stared at [?].

Airi = Forward = Zengen

Bizu's sister. At 14 yo, overcame demi-human discrimination when she encountered Myu's

cuteness.

Haltina Sea of Trees, Faea Belgaen

Alferick = Hypist

Faea Belgaen elder. Chief of the Forest-race (Elves). Longest lived and easiest to talk with.

Zeru of the Tiger-race, Mao of the Winged-race, Rua of the Fox-race, Guze of the Earth-race

(Dwarves), Jin of the Bear-race

Background character elders. Jin never fully recovered from the blow Hajime delivered to his

abdomen.

Altena = Hypist

Granddaughter of Alfrick.

Regin = Banton

Middle-aged man from the Bear-race. Once lead a raid on the Haulia to take revenge for Jin but

had the tables turned. Afterwards developed a trauma of the Haulia, pulse rate and breathing

would elevate just thinking about it.

Haulia Tribe

Cam = Haulia

Shea's father, Chief of the Haulia tribe of the Rabbit-race. Hyahhaa chief. Chuuni chief.

Currently calling himself "Shadow demon hunter of the writhing abyss, Caamubantisu Erufanraito

Rooderia Haulia."

Baru

"Barudoferudo of Certain Destruction", 11 yo. Proud of his ranged weaponry skill. Infected

with chuunibyou.

Rana

"Ranainferina the Fleeting Shadow." Probably has a job requiring speed.

Mina

"Minasuteria the Sky Splitter." Probably has an air assassination attack.

Yao

"Yaozeriasu the Phantom Warrior." Probably uses illusions to manipulate his foes.

Yoru

"Yorugandaru the Creeping Death." Probably… y'know.

Riki

"Rikiddobureiku the Light Rain." Something or other.

Io

“Iorunikusu the Lightning Blade.” Something or other.

Hoelscher Empire

Gahald = D = Hoelscher

Emperor.

Bias = D = Hoelscher

Crown Prince. Ririana’s fiance. Beheaded after he raised a ruckus.

Nediru

Formerly a jailer in the imperial army. Had his nether regions crushed beyond recognition.

Master

Imperial capital (Adventurer Guild) branch bartender. Tenpure guardian [?].

Demon-race

Furiido = Baguaa (Freed)

Red haired, dark skinned, slightly pointed ear male of the demon-race. Mass-produces powerful

demons, possesses space magic from the Age of Gods. His white dragon minions are particularly

powerful, they plunged Hajime into a crisis with their Aurora Breath ability during an ambush.

God Faction

Nointo, Apostle of God

Soldier of God that boasts phenomenal stats. Able to fight more than evenly against Hajime in

her Limit Break state. Appears at turning points in history to enact the will of God, either to

manipulate the masses or eliminating those who are obstacles to God's plan. Hajime wonders if

there are more apostles. Probably.

Ishtar Rangobarudo

Pope of the Sacred Church. Old man. Lost cause.

David = Mark

Aiko's escort team, temple knight captain. After many troubles, became head of Aiko's reverse

harem (although it seems fruitless as Aiko doesn't pay any attention to them).

Chase = Routine

Aiko's escort team, temple knight. Likewise reverse harem member.

Ehito, Human-race god

Aruvu, Demon-race god

Other

Motto = Yunker

A true merchant.

Sohna

Brook town, Masaka inn poster girl. Goes to great lengths to peep at Hajime's love affairs.

Her techniques are already far beyond the level of a town girl.

Christabel

Clothing store monster (drag queen). Former gold-rank adventurer. Possesses strength beyond

common sense.

Mariabelle

Clothing store monster II. Embarked on a new path after Yue's groin smash.

Fosu Seruo

Owner of the Water Fairy inn at the Lakeshore town, Ur. Serves Japanese-style cuisine.

Will Kudeta

Third son of the Count Kudeta house. Oedipus complex.

Riiman

Human-faced fish monster. Can communicate via magic. (漢気溢れる) old man [?]. At first

glance seems to be a world-travelling free spirit, but is actually a deadbeat father that

neglected his wife and children whilst playing around.

Uorupen = Stark

Heilig kingdom chief supervising transmuter. True craftsman. Will to go beyond his limits in

order to learn new techniques.

Liberators

Oscar = Orcus

Master of the Orcus Great Labyrinth (Abyss). In charge of creation magic. This unfortunate

man's corpse was planted in a corner of a crop field.

Miredi = Raisen

Master of the Raisen Great Labyrinth (Great Canyon). In charge of gravity magic. Most annoying

person in the universe. A unique personality amongst the Liberators.

Naizu = Guryuuen

Master of the Guryuuen Great Labyrinth (Great Volcano). In charge of space magic.

Meiru = Merujiine

Master of the Merujiine Great Labyrinth (Undersea Ruins). In charge of regeneration magic.

Sea-race. Contrary to appearances, is rather crude.

Rausu = Baan

Master of the Baan Great Labyrinth (God Mountain). In charge of spirit magic. Bald.

Shunee = ? (Shune ?)

Master of the Shunee Great Labyrinth (Snowfield Ice Cave). In charge of ? magic. Dungeon

located in demon-race territory in the south.

Luluo = Haltina

Master of the Haltina Great Labyrinth (Sea of Trees). In charge of ? magic. Dungeon located in

demi-human territory in the east.

Chapter 122

The wind was roaring and howling, and the ground underneath was quickly flowing backwards.

The Demi-humans that the Empire had released were wondering whether what they're currently experience was really reality or not, to confirm it, they've pinched their cheeks many times to the point of becoming teary eyed. And, they were unsettled as if declaring, I'm not waking up from my dream~, once again, they looked at the unrealistic scene. Although it's sometimes referred as, escaping from reality.

They were currently boarded on a "basket" that Hajime had installed onto the bottom of the "Flying Airship", "Feruniru", and are currently experiencing their first time traveling by air.

Feruniru was as expected, not on the scale of being able to allow thousands of Demi-humans to board, so a large basket was quickly installed. Image-wise, it looked just like an airship gondola.

Actually, the gate hall was set up for Fair Bergen and the Hauria's hidden town, although it was possible to get to the Sea of Tree's instantly after opening a gate, they daringly chose to travel by air for the sake of setting up the stage. That way, there'll be much more impact of the Demi-human's being set free by the Empire.

As it was, there was need for someone to assure the words at the open space from last time, "Releasing the Demi-humans were God's will". The spectacle of a huge flying object turning towards the skies to return home was required to completely fool the Empire citizens.

but, as the price, Hajime who started up Feruniru was faced with a harsh burden from having so much people loaded on. While gushing out red magical power on the bench seat in the bridge, laying on his back with his legs stretched out languidly was not the embodiment of arrogance.

As expected, to pilot the ship with thousands of people boarded on,

their accumulated weight which forced his magic consumption to drain out was definitely not half-assed.

However, while his magical powers were gradually drained away, with the current situation he decided to train his magical ability to efficiently operate magical power through his consciousness with much effort, however the cause of his languidity was likely not just due to the magic consumption though.

To others it would just look like someone was being lazy but, it was actually a person's effort to train whenever possible. It was really hard to tell the difference……

Yue, Shia, and Kaori were attending and beside Hajime. Though Hajime's appearance was that of a father becoming lazy while sitting on a bench as his child plays at the park on a holiday, at his right arm was Yue, on his left was Shia using it as a pillow, and Kaori who was fiddling with his hair from the back of the seat.

He was really training seriously but……there would be no rebuttals that the scene looked just like a guy with his Harem.

[Oi oi, that's quite the attitude while in front of the Emperor, eh?]

[……Nagumo-kun, although I'm only saying it…..I think you should respect yourself a bit more?]

[How enviou……I mean. Right. it's indecent]

Though he was concentrating on training to operate his magical powers efficiently, unconsciously Yue and Shia were patting his head as the voices multiplied towards Hajime.

In order to swear the oath in front of Fair Bergen's elders, Gaharudo, the Emperor of the Hoelscher Empire accompanied them, Ririana accompanied them as a member of the royal family of the same human beings to witness the oath as a princess of the Hairhi Kingdom, and the usual Shizuku. Of course, Kouki, Ryutaro, and Suzu was also there.

And another person as well, Teio who was asked by Gaharudo to show him around on the airship was also there but, when she

returned and saw Yue and them, [Mistress as well～], she declared to Hajime and began carrying out the ruOndaibu *It's a reference which I can't make out, とハジメにル○ンダイブを決行し*, sensing what was about to happen Hajime used his legs to strangle her and without a problem she dropped to the ground. Although her eye whites were showing and she was slightly convulsing, there were no problems.

[Ah～, did you finish exploring the warship?]

[Yeah, it's quite ridiculous. I have absolutely no idea how this mass of metal is able to fly. But, its extremely interesting! Oi, Hajime Nagumo. Prepare an aircraft for us. I'll pay whatever you ask for]

Gaharudo sat on the bench and faced towards him, his eyes were shining star-like in curiosity at Hajime. Shizuku and them also sat on the seats.

By the way, Shizuku and Ririana were sitting right next to hajime. Though Gaharudo was a bit unpleased, but his eyes were shining like a little boy and he didn't care much about it. He seems to have greatly liked this airship.

[I have no need for stuff like money. Give it up. This is going to be the only time you're getting on board. Do your best to enjoy the time you have right now]

[Don't say that. Na? Just one, even a small plane is fine]

[There's no merit in it for me though]

[Nugu～u, if money is no good then how about women! One of my daughters was finally becoming just the right age. Though she has quite a lot of pride, her beauty is top-tier. I'll add her into your harem so, na? It'll be nice right?]

It appears that Gaharudo thought Hajime was an unparalleled playboy. It was sad that situationally it was something that couldn't be denied.

However, it would be troublesome to suddenly be handed a woman so Hajime was about to reject while laughing but, the females

reacted quicker than him.

[[[[[No(desu*Shia*)(ja*Teio*)!!]]]]]

[……And there you have it]

[Chi, you're just showing off…..n? Princess Ririana, just now, didn't you also react?]

Gaharudo sulked and clicked his tongue and turned his line of sight towards Ririana and noticed. Allured by that, the others also turn towards Ririana.

[Eh? N, no way. Are you sure you weren't mistaken?]

[……Kukuku. Come to think of it, at the party, you were having much more fun dancing with Hajime Nagumo than with Bias. Oi oi, Hajime Nagumo. Aren't you moving along too quickly? Even I'm amazed at your speed]

[*She actually repeats Nya, but english-wise it doesn't make sense like it did with Hajime's name in the chapter 120 lol*Whawhawhawhat are you talking about! Me and Nagumo-san absolutely don't have that kind of relationship! R, right? Ne? Nagumo-san!]

[Ah? Ah~, it's as impossible as the heavens overturning itself]

[……You didn't have to take it that far……]

Towards Hajime clear objection, the riled up and increasing tension that Ririana had was immediately cut down. She looked away at something sulkingly. From that attitude, Ririana understood that she had no chance……

Or rather, in her heart she was looking back towards the dance from the party. Hajime should have been thinking about it too but, to completely put down the person in question on the spot, glances of sympathy was looked at Ririana, then towards Hajime.

[……Why do I have to be looked at with those kinds of eyes. In the first place, the princess is something like a married woman.

Although her fiance was beheaded, that doesn't mean that her marriage with the royal family was lost. That's why, eventually she'll be paired up with another royalty right?]

[Ah~, about that…..]

On behalf of Ririana who had the expression of having chewed hundreds of bitter insects and worms, Gaharudo answered.

[Being completely honest, my clan is currently not in the position for that kind of thing. After all, we have to wear these necklaces throughout our entire lives or else we'll die, we've got to deal with the many ridiculous situations that arose]

Just like Garuda had said, a necklace with a red gem was definitely on his neck.

[From the contents of that oath, even if someone else other than the royalty disobeys the contract, the royal family will "judge accordingly by the law" to the best we can, our lives are connected now, as it is, it doesn't change the fact that the lives of the public have also been grasped. A radical reform of punishment needs to be created in order to enforce the laws, and all the other towns besides the Empire needs to know of the law as well……everyone here and there are desperate right now]

As Gaharudo leaned back deeply into the backrest of the seat, he scratched his head as if saying, [I'm lost!].

[Now that I don't know when we'll be dying, I can't afford to have the princess of another kingdom marry in, there's absolutely no other choice. moreover, we've lost manpower because of the emancipation of the Demi-humans. There's people fussing about everywhere. We also need manpower in correspondence towards suppressing the public, honestly, it's a situation where the Empire actually wants to ask (. . . . .) for the Kingdom's support instead]

[I see. In other words you're taking back the marriage proposed to the princess?]

[Ma~a, that's about it. We need to calm down the situation and

confirm the safety of the royal family first, then once that happens, this time, it would be a better idea for his highness Randell……or rather Majesty now…. to marry with a princess instead]

Towards Gaharudo's explanation, everyone present gave off a, [Heh~] expression.

By the way, actually, one of the royalty screamed out, [As if there's any truth to that foolish talk! I'll be removing this necklace!], and they really removed their necklace, afterwards, they suddenly turned mad and rampaged around, and as if their threads were cut, they died on the spot, this was the reason why the royalty began to work desperately.

[Isn't that great then! Riri!]

[It really is. Freedom to love…..might actually still be impossible but, for the time being, you've gained time]

[Un un. I'm glad for you, Riri]

With Kouki first, the members glanced at Ririana with a gentle gaze. Ririana showed a bitter smile towards her friends who were glancing at her, pleased without reserve that the "marriage had been cleared up". Oddly enough, Gaharudo also showed a wry smile.

[With that, Hajime Nagumo. Right now princess Ririana is currently free*english accent*? If you want, the Empire will cooperate with you with all it's might]

[Na~!? Your Majesty! What are you saying! I, I'm not……]

Gaharudo was grinning from ear to ear as he said it. Once again Ririana was riled up.

However, Hajime was taking the contents of the talk lightly and turned an amazed expression towards Gaharudo. He had enough of Ririana's current attitude.

[Then, I'll have to give you an airship in return? No matter how you look at it there are no merits…..rather, isn't it a demerit?]

[Just what are you implying!? Nagumo-san!]

[Oi oi, she's the princess of a country? Normally, it's a place that men can't even reach]

[Wait a second, did you two hear what I just said? Are you guys listening to me!]

[Don't group me with you. I have no hobbies to collect women. Princess is only a title, rather it'll only cause troubles]

[Hai-hai-hai, you guys definitely didn't listen. No one here listened to me. …..~Gusu~……what exactly is a princess I wonder…..]

[Riri……it's alright…..U~u, you're a princess so don't worry]

[Ri, Riri! I heard you properly, so! Show some spirit!]

Ririana was completely through with Hajime and Gaharudo's discussion, Ririana finally began writing characters on her seat in a negligent manner. At the edge of her eye, something was gathering and sparkling. Then Shizuku and Kouki were desperately trying to cheer her up.

Disregarding Ririana and them, Hajime was currently groaning, [Unununu], and Gaharudo who was trying to negotiate with him let out a sigh.

[I have nothing I want right now, just give it up. Eventually, just maybe, you'll find something worth negotiating over……so just wait patiently until that time]

[Nu~uuu, you really have nothing that you want? Anything you want done? Just honestly say it out. Humans always have wants. It's always been decided that someone who says that they don't want anything are either no longer human or just scheming something behind the scenes. …..Ah~, that's right, you were a monster]

[You trying to pick a fight? …….Ma~a, I can understand what you mean. But…..]

As Hajime was saying that, he jerked and embraced both Yue and Shia.

[What I really want is already in my arms. “Having them with me at all times” is already enough to fill my entire head, I can’t think of anything “more” than that. Probably for life]

That’s why-, Hajime expressed that negotiations were useless. Yue was so happy she brought her body closer, Shia’s eyes were opened wide to have also been forcefully held like Yue, in the next moment her Usamimi and bunny tail began wagging back and forth and she threw her arms around Hajime.

On Hajime’s chest, Yue’s and Shia’s eyes met, both of them both laughed, [Kufufu], and smiled at one another.

[Ah～, ah～, I get it, I get it. Chi, it’s way too sweet for my mouth to handle. I guess I’ll go and enjoy the scenery on the deck…..]

Gaharudo got up with an annoyed look and quickly left the bridge. Hajime was smiling wryly. After seeing the face-to-face discussion, Kouki and Ryutaro didn’t know what to do and let their eyes wander around. Suzu let out an odd voice, [Howa～].

And a voice came out from behind Hajime and his legs.

[Uu～, it’s unfair that it’s only Yue and Shia! Ne, ne～e, Hajime-kun. “In my arms” is a metaphorical expression right? It’s not only limited to Yue and Shia right? Ne?]

[Ma, master. Although I got to experience your wonderful foot technique, will you not hold mistress closely either? “In my arms” would be nice……]

Kaori clung onto Hajime from behind, she was desperately trying to appeal for her existence. Teio sat up and pleaded to Hajime with her chin on his knee.

The person who reacted to the two was Yue.

While getting up a little, she glanced towards Kaori and Teio.

[……How unfortunate]

[Wha, what do you mean!?]

[Mu～u, I can't ignore that just now, Yue!]

Kaori and Teio had an atmosphere as if they were chewing onto a handkerchief while letting out [Ki～iii!], as they looked at Yue who was expressionless. Yue inclined her neck as if she was thinking about something, then she slowly pointed at herself and Shia.

Then,

[……Winner]

Following that, she pointed at Kaori and Teio.

[……Loser]

And as expected, it was said with her expressionless face. Then as it was she snuggled her cheek against Hajime's chest. Then at that moment, a sound of something being cut "～Buchi～" could be heard within the bridge.

[Fu, fufufu….Yue's pretty weird right? suddenly saying things that don't make sense….she's surely broken somewhere?]

[That's right. That must be true. Then mistresses must fix it]

[Speaking of fixing, there's a simple way of doing it]

[Umu umu, broken things will…..]

[[Be fixed if hit! (No-ja!*Teio*)]]

They suddenly both stood up and overlooked down on Yue while smiling.

Extremely tensed*Doki as in the effect doki doki*? Fighting spirit*Toki*?-like began to overflow. From that pressure, Kouki, Ryutaro, and Suzu huddled together to brace themselves. Kouki began to whisper in a mutter, [Is, is that Kaori?].

Yue who was hit by both of their pressures, once again, smiled slightly which ruined her expressionless face and looked up.

[…..Stop it. If we seriously went at it, both of you have no chances of beating me]

Are you CodiOta*Unsure about what this reference is, コーディ○ーター* they wanted to tsukkomi her lines. And that was quite the intense provocation.

[[Just what we wanted! (Ja!)]]

Sure enough it caused Kaori and Teio to heat up even more. Yue also slowly got up.

[Wa, the three of you wait a second! To suddenly start fighting…..or rather, Nagumo-kun*lol whoops i didn't notice i had kun and san mixed up here, thanks gimme_breack and maniac88*! Stop them!]

Shizuku was sweatingly and flustered around trying to do her best to arbitrate the situation. And quickly came to the conclusion that she wouldn't be able to stop them herself! So she gave up and turned to ask for help from Hajime who was the cause of this dispute.

Hajime just casually said…..

[It's impossible. I'm sluggish…..]

His magical power was already drastically decreased and he became sluggish. He didn't seem to have any intentions of moving.

To begin with, a small quarrel was an everyday occurrence, rather it was more like a kind of communication for the girls, so Hajime didn't pay much heed to it.

[P, people like you are～]

However, Shizuku was still oblivious towards her surroundings then, a cheek began to twitch.

Then, a hanya-voice called out to Shizuku.

[Shizuku-chan! Please take that back!]

[Ar～e? Since when did I get pulled into this!?]

Quite naturally, Shizuku's participation in the war was decided.

[Sa～a, princess, let's both step up together! You're an barrier expert right? I'll leave defences to you and Suzu over there!]

[Eh? Me as well!? Why!?]

[Suzu was also casually included!?]

Teio with her draconic strength held Suzu and Ririana's necks like a kitten and dragged them. [Princess…..I'm a princess…….], Ririana muttered out with empty feelings.

[……Shia, I'm entrusting you as the Vanguard]

[A, alright! I won't let anyone get near Yue-san!]

Full of spirit. It seemed that Shia served as Yue's vanguard. She got up from Hajime and started twirling her arm around.

[……Hajime, wait for a bit. I'm going to beat them and come back]

[O～h, do it in moderation～]

[……After we're done fighting we'll embrace again]

[Anytime is fine～]

[……N～]

With that, the female members (except for some) left towards the deck with the atmosphere filled with fighting spirit. Although the deck was a moderate size it couldn't be said to have actually been enough. Surely It'll likely be good battle training. It's necessary for Kaori to get used to Nointo's body so moving around is a good idea. Since there's no telling what kind of ordeals they'll be facing at the great labyrinth, [Harutsuina Sea of Trees], it's good to train even if

only a bit.

However it was unknown whether Yue and them had that in mind though.

After a while, roars and explosions were beginning to be heard. Kouki and them were startled. They had anxious expressions, wondering if it was really alright to just leave them as is.

[They're having fun huh~]

However, Hajime's impression was just that.

[……Or rather what's with you, Nagumo…..]

[As expected, you're quite outrageous….]

The bridge that was only filled with men now, after looking at the bored Hajime, Kouki and Ryutaro were half amazed and half concerned. He wasn't phased at all with that riot that the women started, it seemed to have been completely natural so they were impressed as men.

After that, Yue and their fight ended after terribly scaring the Demi-humans, and finally the Sea of Trees were beginning to appear up ahead. Although it sounded as if the first to scream out was the emperor…….it must have surely just been their imaginations.

While quietly worrying for the emperor's safety, they began to prepare and land at the Sea of Trees.

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were reversed, it was wrapped up in clamor. People were busily running to the right and left. People started gathering in the village outside of Fair Bergen, it appears that people were arranging the soldiers and instructing them.

Towards that clamor, while looking out the window that was left open to let in the evening wind, one of Fair Bergen's elders, Alfrerick Hapisuto of the forest people had a slightly indescribable expression while holding a document in one hand.

In the contents, was a report about accepting in several thousands of their brethren back, it was that kind of document. The other elders were also helping out to split the work.

[Fu~u….Cam. Is our brethren truly coming back?]

[…..You're still saying that kind of thing. I'm not going to keep reassuring you every time you ask, just hurry up and finish preparing to accept them]

When Alfrerick began talking, as if the room was alive a person's presence appeared. Beside Alfrerick was the Haruia, Cam, who had concealed his presence.

Cam and the Hauria tribe came back through the gate ahead of Hajime and them to tell of the Demi-humans being liberated. And used the telepathy stones to increase efficiency of the preparations to accept in their people, that was their roles as volunteers.

[I know that. It's just that, it's still just to hard to believe. That Empire is really liberating our brethren……]

[That'll be proven in a few hours from now. Ma~a, I can understand your feelings. …..For us, if it wasn't for boss, never in our dreams did we think something of this scale could be done]

[Boss…..the qualified person—Nagumo Hajime, huh. If that story is true then, he is not just my granddaughter's but all of our brethren's savior. We'll have to think of a way to repay him…..]

[Boss probably doesn't expect any of those kinds of things. Rather than that, quickly move that hand of yours. The reports are stacking

up again]

Cam who heard a report from the telepathy stone, glanced towards Alfrerick for an instant. Although something was said to Cam through the telepathy stone, he only looked out into space, his appearance had no openings at all either. On the contrary, intense drive appeared from his lack of presence.

They once had an expression of resignation towards their expectation of their clan being executed……you'd never think they were the same person. Their original gentle atmosphere was also nonexistent now, instead they had a sharpness that seemed that it would cut anyone who just touches them.

In fact, that sharpness had already been shown.

That was because as soon as Cam came to the elders and told them to prepare to accept in the slaves which will be liberated, no one, not even Alfrerick could believe his words but, on that occasion, one of the elders felt that Cam's behavior was irreverently and unpleasant, so they started throwing out words in contempt at Cam and even tried to get him to kneel down forcefully.

Even if they've avenged the Kumaninzoku before and helped out when Fair Bergen was attacked by the demons and empire, the values that the Usagininzoku were seen in where likely not able to change so quickly.

However, towards that action due to fixed values, he returned it with severe murderous intent. The moment that one of the elder's subordinates tried to touch Cam, just where were they hidden, simultaneously the Hauria tribe appeared and placed their blades on all of the elder's necks.

Naturally, the man who was about to confront cam also had a blade pointed at him, it turned into a situation where no one moved a muscle. Filled with murderous intent, if you spoke poorly, there's no doubt that they'll bear their fangs, Alfrerick was somehow able to resettle peace in that situation.

In an instant, they occupied Fair Bergen's elder meeting who

carried the highest power, and, made them all breakout into cold sweat with their fierce murderous intent, for the time being they decided to trust them and see what happens. Or rather, they couldn't do anything but that. The Hauria's blades which were on the scruff of their necks were dangerous.

[Oji-sama*Grandfather*, preparation for the meals are complete. This is the quantity left after consumption]

A lovely voice just like a bell ranged out and pulled Alfrerick out of his recollection which made him break out in cold sweat.

[Mu, Arutena huh. Thanks for the hard work. But, you keep going back and forth*unsure, お前も帰って来てまだ間がないのだ*, don't stress yourself out]

[I'm just fine. My brethren are coming back, I can't just sit and do nothing]

Arutena took on a resolute attitude as Alfrerick was worrying. However, after passing on the report to Alfrerick, strangely she began to fidget restlessly. Though Alfrerick was dubious, he noticed that his granddaughter was frequently glancing towards Cam, and somehow guessed what she had in mind.

[If you're anxious about him, how about hearing about it from Cam?]

[! N, no, I wasn't particularly thinking about Nagumo-san……]

[However, I never said anything about a man did I?]

[Oji-sama! No way, please don't find faults in others words like a meanie!]

Alfrerick was visibly pleased while watching his granddaughter who was restless, he may have been serious about it?-she thought.

Due to Arutena's personality and figure, there have been many marriage proposals since her birth but, up until now she's rejected them all, the person in question wanted to follow in her grandfather's footsteps and work for the country rather than

thinking about marriage. That's why he had never had this kind of discussion until now…..

From within Alfrerick, his foolishness and teasing as a grandfather started to rise up.

[Fumu, that man is definitely your benefactor but, he doesn't think of you as special? Or rather, to be specific he was helping out the Hauria tribe? Although you shouldn't think too much into it…..it'll be difficult to get him to become your partner]

[I've already said it~, it's not like that! Mou~! I heard that Nagumo-sama was bringing back our brethren, so I was only a bit interested about it. Yes, that's the only reason!]

With a puffed out face, Arutena started to leave the room and Alfrerick secretly let out a sigh.

Then, at that time, Cam who was quiet until then, unexpectedly called out to Arutena.

[Miss Arutena]

[Eh, ehtto, yes? Cam-san. What is it?]

Cam had a smile as if he was amused at something which made Arutena reply back wryly. Cam reported smiling as he saw Arutena who was cautious.

[Although it seems as if boss allows many women to serve him, the fact is, he's fairly single-minded. And, the "special" positions have already been covered, as so, it's immovable. It's possible to get closer towards those seats but, you'd likely need a substantial amount of trust for that]

[Wa, ha~a…..Ehtto]

Cam was fearlessly grinning at the puzzled Arutena.

[By the way, according to boss's actions, the closest person towards that seat is……my daughter Shia. After all, the reason why he helped us bear our fangs at the Empire was because, "For the sake

of Shia's smile to not become clouded" he said]

[! Is, is that so?]

[That's right. If it was for Shia's sake, Boss would take on a country's army. Right, all for Shia's sake. Fufufu]

[!]

Arutena sensitively guess that he was basically implying, [You can't win against my daughter!].

Actually, Arutena was the same age of Shia who was 16 years old. Therefore, having been compared with another girl of her age and told that she wouldn't even be a proper match…… there was no helping that she was angry.

[When you say Shia-san…..you're talking about the one with the pale bluish hair right. Allow me to say that I don't think I'm inferior to her. Though there is definitely a difference in the amount of time spent together……even I would, with the same amount of time given to me……]

[*light hearted no's*Iya, iya, our Shia is an extremely special existence, as expected, miss Arutena should stop from doing such useless things for your own sake, allow me to give you some advice. If you miss the marriageable age it'll become a very bleak thing]

[That's uncalled for!]

[Ha~a. Cam, would you leave the teasing of my granddaughter at that……]

The huffing mad Arutena and the grinning Cam. Alfrerick let out a grand sigh as he looked at the two.

The reason why Cam was provoking Arutena was because he was a bit meddlesome.

Of course, he was not going against Arutena, he was going against Shia. The relationship of Shia and Hajime when they left the Sea of Trees could be said that Shia was rushing it. That is, as long as

you're looking at appearances only, Cam had felt that their relationship had become quite intimate. After one push, make sure to rush straight beyond the goal!

That one push, in other words it was a detonator for Arutena to start scheming, If Shia had heard it, [That's extremely uncalled for!] she'd say in anger.

Cam chuckled to himself as he had lit up Arutena's feelings of rivalry. The appearance of a girl whos decided to love without hesitation and resort to anything was…..incredibly devilish.

Then, at that time, all of the sudden the outside became noisy. It wasn't the same noise from running around like before, it was the noisiness of tension from an unexpected situation. They even began to hear roars.

[What's going on!]

Alfrerick suddenly stood up from his seat and walked up to the window. Then he saw the cause of the commotion.

[Pillars….of….light?]

Exactly according to those words, light as strong as the sunlight during daytime was shining down onto the trees, no, the light was incomparably strong, that, rather than just the trees it lit up past them and lit up the plaza of Fair Bergen.

The situation was currently unknown, Alfrerick had his eyes wide opened and a calm voice resounded.

[Don't worry, Alfrerick. Boss has arrived]

Right, the identity of the light which illuminated Fair Bergens plaza, was the searchlight of the airship "Feruniru" which has arrived in the skies of Fair Bergen.

Chapter 123

An intense light poured down over Fair Bergen just like a barrier.

Demi-humans were running away in different directions when the plaza was lit up by the pillar of light, they were all watching from afar with nervous expressions of what's to come.

Similarly, soldiers surrounded the plaza while having an expression cramped with fear.

Bekibeki~, Baki~, Beki~!! *Sound of branches breaking*

Immediately afterwards, a scream-like sound was emitted by the tree's overhead as they broke. [Goodness gracious, has a new monster appeared!], as Fair Bergen's residents took a forward stance, it appeared.

What they saw first was a huge mass of metal. Gradually lowering it's altitude and finally the residents of Fair Bergen noticed that it was a gondola. Afterwards, the appearance of a devilfish-like airship "Feruniru" was seen. The ground was illuminated by the two powerful searchlights which were attached to the bottom of its front and back in order to look for a safe place to land.

The surrounding people could do nothing but simply open their eyes and mouths widely in astonishment, Feruniru slowly lowered the gondola to the ground and purges it, then it landed beside the gondola.

The plaza was completely filled up with the gondola and Feruniru and the surrounding people took distance from it in a panic. At the same time, they had a, what's going to happen now, face filled with unease as they looked.

Then, at that time, the front and back of the rectangular shaped gondola suddenly opened up. The Demi-humans were startled. The soldier's hands which held their weapons were drenched in sweat and, ~Gokuri~, the sound of their throats could be heard. Their expressions stiffened up when they thought about what might jump

out of the gondola which was wrapped in darkness.

Among the residence's gazes, what appeared from the atmosphere timidly was……an Usagininzoku girl. With that, the residents expressions turned into bewilderment. In that situation where the residents couldn't process and understand yet, Demi-humans appeared one after another from the darkness.

Those who came out from the gondola in succession, all equally looked around their surroundings with a slightly unbelieveable expression. In the serene silence of the cool air, vigorously, along with the security they felt while surrounded by trees, the nostalgic lights of Fair Bergen, and the sight of their brethren who they believed they'd never see again.

Although they were still in a stunned state like vegetation absorbing water, they were gradually realising. "We've finally returned to our hometown" is what they said.

Fair Bergen's residents were also the same as well.

A woman hesitatingly advanced ahead slowly. It was a middle-aged woman who had dropped down inumimis. She had tears accumulating in the corners of her eyes and gently called out the name which she thought was lost.

[…..Zack, are you Zack?]

The one who reacted to that voice was a boy who similarly had dropped down inumimis. It was that boy which Kouki had worried about at the Empire. Once the boy caught the appearance of the woman, his face crumpled up into tears and started running out.

[Ka-san!*Mom*]

[Zack!]

As the woman knelt down and expanded out her arms, the boy leaped into her chest. The woman who was called, mother, was tightly embracing her son within her arms to confirm that it wasn't a fantasy. And the parent and child had tears flowing out of delight from their miraculous reunion.

During the period of the parent and child's reunion, the Demi-humans and residents realized that they've returned and shouted out in joy which shook the ground as they ran towards each other, family and friends were releasing a powerfully bright voice every time they met up with acquaintances and lovers who were safe.

Fair Bergen was wrapped up in great joy, the usual quiet tranquility suddenly disappeared and a festival-like racket began.

Inside of the clamor of Demi-humans which was filled with overflowing smiles, Alfrerick as well as the other elders came running up to Hajime and them who got off Feruniru.

[Boy…..you had a completely unexpected appearance]

[N? Ahh, Alfrerick huh. Ma～a, there were various bothersome things so overlook it for me]

When Alfrerick looked overhead at the trees which folded and broke, he showed a wry smile as he talked, Hajime was scratching his cheek and had a slightly embarrassed expression.

From the skies of the Sea of Trees, the idea to descend down onto and crushing the trees without question just to enter from the outside of the Sea of Trees because using a gate to transfer everyone was too troublesome was due to careless judgement from his magical power being reduced to almost nothing.

However, because Hajime had been impressed by Fair Bergen's beautiful scenery, as expected there's was a slight feeling of having done something bad.

[Sorry, Yue. Can I rely on you?]

[N…..leave it to me]

When Hajime called out to Yue by his side, Yue's lips loosened into a wry smile and she extended out her right arm overhead.

["Absolute Imitation"] *That's what I'm calling it, 絶象*

Reproduction magic "Absolute Imitation". It's a magic which

restores all destruction regardless of whether it was organic or inorganic matter.

The moment Yue activated the magic, the tree's overhead immediately regained their former appearances. The elders exposed absentminded expressions towards the irrational magic which they witnessed. Only Alfrerick was able to guess that it was due to obtaining new Age of Gods magic and he massaged his forehead wrinkles like he was tired.

[Oji-sama, although I sympathize with your feelings, it's about time we should…….]

[Mu, that's right. Boy…..no, Nagumo-dono. I've roughly heard of the circumstances from Cam. Though it was unbelievably sudden, it appears that my brethren have really been released. we've likely just experienced a historical moment right now. First of all, as Fair Bergen's representative, I thank you]

[That's what you say but, the ones who did everything was the Hauria tribe. Please don't make mistakes here?]

Hajime gave a warning towards Alfrerick's words as he was indifferently putting the gondola and Feruniru back away into the "Treasure Warehouse". Suddenly the enormous objects from the plaza disappeared and the people who were expressing their joys began blinking their eyes. Then they paid attention towards Hajime and them who were facing the Elders.

[Ahh, of course. To begin with if the Haruia tribe wasn't here, Fair Bergen may have been completely obliterated from the previous attack. Considering that as well, there's nothing else to believe. Fufu~, never in my long life…..did I ever expect that it would be the weakest and banished Haruia tribe that would have defeated the Empire]

The Hauria tribe challenged the Empire to a fight and came out victorious and they even rescued all the brethren—-that fact having been stated from Alfrerick's mouth made the residents realise who the people that allowed them to reunite with their important people were.

They turned their attention to Cam who was standing next to Alfrerick with a straightened back. What dwelled in their eyes was not contempt at the weakest race but, great awe and respect of looking at a hero.

When Cam notices those glances, as if he had thought of something a mischievous smile appeared on his lips and he slowly raised his right hand. And as if saying, [Come over here!], he bent his fingertips. It was a hand signal which they used when they invaded the castle.

In that instant, it seemed like someone would instinctively tsukkomi, [*light hearted no's* Iya, Iya, where were you guys hiding!], the other Hauria tribesmen suddenly appeared around Cam! And they all took an "At ease" stance while lined up without moving at all as they awaited their command.

Cam had a satisfied smile as he looked at his tribesmen who stood in a line, his eyes were sharp like a blade and filled with drive which was enough to make people back away unconsciously, all of the residents——to be exact it was the Usagininzoku who he raised his voice towards.

[My brethren. People of the Sea of Trees who have suffered humiliation and resignation over the long time. Listen. Though we've managed to overcome the Empire this time, eternal peace is impossible. All of your futures will definitely be threatened once again, not too long from now]

The hundreds of Usagininzoku that were at the plaza trembled in fear towards those words. Will the painful days of the Empire come once again? they're eyes clinged onto Cam who was making a speech.

[Once that happens, you guys will once again experience days like yesterday. No, not only that. This time, even comrades who have escaped being slaves will also suffer the same fate]

Although they were safe now, the dark future was pointed out, not only the Usagininzoku but also the other Demi-humans were looking down.

[Are you guys fine with that?]

There's no way it's fine. We never want to return to those days where our dignity was trampled on. Let alone, allowing our precious people to experience those pains as well.

But, even if you say that, what should we do……

Cam was glancing sternly at his brethren who were looking down, and as if the answer was right before their eyes, he further increased his voice.

[There's no way that's fine right? Then, what should we do. It's simple. If you want to protect those who are important to you right now…..fight. If you don't wish to live while being exploited in resignation then…..stand up for yourselves. If you wish to change the Usagininzoku's circumstances then……fill your heart with hatred! Just like how we of the Hauria Tribe did! The Usagininzoku was never the weakest to begin with! As long as you have determination, then you can become stronger than any other race! We've already proven that!]

Some leaked an, [Ah…..]. They realised that those who broke through the huge enemy and rescued them were not a special existence but the same Usagininzoku that they were. One of the Usagininzoku that was looking down rose their face up once again.

[Remember the humiliation that you received at the Empire. Do not contempt yourselves that it was due to unfortunate circumstances. Continue protecting your important people with your own hands. If you have the time to indulge yourself in resignation then take up your weapons! We'll teach you how to fight. If you seek power, if you've decided to fight then, you should come and join us. The Hauria tribe will always welcome you guys at any time!!]

After Cam finished ending his speech, he gave out a hand signal once again. Then, the Hauria tribesmen as if they were ninjas spread out and disappeared in an instant!

Once they saw that, Cam confirmed that the fires were lit up within the Usagininzoku's eyes and he chuckled to himself. [It looks like

our military power's increased once again! I'll make sure to not miss the chance to remodel their minds immediately once they first participate in the training!] he thought.

[Boss, I'm sorry to have side tracked. It was just too good a time to secure talented people]

[Ahh, I don't particularly mind. ……So even you've become able to speak like that~. With that, how about uniting all the Usagininzoku with the Hauria?]

[Hahaha, if it comes to that then we'll become quite fearsome!]

[……Recently, father's demeanor has become more and more like Hajime-san's. I feel that the "Gentle Usagininzoku" will become exterminated not too long from now]

Shia was looking far into the distance with a dry smile. It appears that it's only a matter of time before all Usagininzoku's become brainwashed.

By the way, Gaharudo was also there. Right before his eyes, the Hauria tribe which defeated him were gathering forces but he didn't say anything in particular. Or rather, he was in a situation where he couldn't say anything. In order to not needlessly give more information than necessary on Fair Bergen away, Hajime made him wear magic sealing shackles which were attached to his feet and arms and a mask which completely shut out light and sound (Yellow soil colored).

After this and after explaining the oath as proof of the Empire's defeat to the elders, they planned to immediately return him through the gate. That was the only reason they brought along the Emperor—-there wasn't anything like dignity.

[Fumu, we can't let them stay out here any longer. Guide them inside. Arutena, I'm relying on you]

[Yes, oji-sama. Sa~a, it's this way. Nagumo-sama]

Because of Cam's speech, they attracted too much attention for a simple greeting, so Alfrerick urged Arutena to guide them into the

hall that was prepared.

Arutena who received the task, nodded once, and then for some reason she tried to take hold of Hajime's hand while smiling radiantly to guided them. That action wasn't missed in Yue and their eyes. By chance, his right hand had already been held onto by Yue so she aimed towards the left side where Shia was, however Shia similarly smiled radiantly as she casually took back Hajime's left hand.

Shia and Arutena's line of sight intersected. For some reason you could hear an auditory hallucination of electricity being discharged ~Bachi Bachi~.

[We're counting on you (. . . .) to guide us. Arutena-san?]

[Yes, of course, Shia-san. But, since there are lots of people, for the sake of not losing you guys, I'd like to hold onto his hand?]

So she says, Arutena tries to get back Hajime's left hand which Shia took. It appears that she was properly listening to Cams provocation. It was an unbecoming attitude for the princess of the forest people*for some reason the author isn't referring to them as elves anymore, unless forest people in japanese is supposed to stand for elf?*. Rather than facing Hajime so on and so forth*This line's iffy, ハジメに対して云々というより*, Shia's sense of rivalry seemed to have been pretty strong.

[Just according to plan!], is what Cam seems to say as he was grinning from ear to ear, having guessed the circumstances of the surroundings Hajime smiled while releasing blood lust. In an instant, Cam broke out in cold sweat like a waterfall.

Hajime who was slightly stressed let out a sigh towards Cam and tightly gripped onto Shia's hand.

[Ah…..]

Shia unintentionally let out a voice. Then at the next moment she smiled brightly and she tightly embraced Hajime's arm. Although it was his artificial arm, due to its artificial nerves he was able to feel

the wonderful feeling of having his left arm buried into her breasts.

While looking at such a happy Shia, Arutena unintentionally looked towards Hajime, Hajime's eyes were coldly stating, [Quickly guide us in], then her shoulders quickly dropped and she began to downheartedly guide them. From the start, it was imbalanced due to Shia who traveled with him and had lots of contact rather than with Arutena, the results were obvious.

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Once they were guided into the hall, the elders sat towards the end, and the Hauria tribesmen including Cam was also at the meeting, and on the right was Gaharudo who sat across from Hajime.

He's already publicly declared the defeat of the Hoelscher Empire and Gaharudo has said the contents of the oath, to which the elders and others can testify to. With this, all elders seemed to admit that the Hauria tribe was telling the truth.

[Fu~n. However, how dare you nonchalantly come here alone. You're our sworn enemy. Surely you don't think you can return safely?]

One of the elders——Zell of the Toraninzoku*Tiger*, stared at Gaharudo with hate who entered into enemy territory alone haughtily. The atmosphere was like anything could go flying at any moment.

However, even if such a gare was turned to Gaharudo, he was indifferent.

[Ha~a? Isn't it obvious that that's what I thought. I honestly doubt you'd actually try to kill me. If that were to happen then it would only mean that Fair Bergen's leaders are full of idiots]

[What was that you bastard!]

Alfrerick was holding back Zell who was furious.

[Zell, stop it. I understand your feelings. The reason Gaharudo came here was for the sake of pledging to the oath which the Hauria tribe
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placed on him. Nothing more, nothing less. If he was killed now, then all meaning would be lost in the Hauria's actions which they risked their lives for]

[Ku~…..]

Zell made a mortifying face and threw his fist against the floor.

Gaharudo was laughing through his nose when he saw Zell. The atmosphere in that place was the worst. It was clear that Gaharudo had no sense of guilt for having enslaved the Demi-humans and also had no intent of apologising. However, Gaharudo enslaved the Demi-humans because they were weak, the story of the Hauria tribe being able to free the Demi-humans was simply because they were strong. The elders gazed at Gaharudo with murderous intent and the situation further increased as Gaharudo simply laughed provocatively.

The one who easily broke apart that situation without questions asked was Hajime. Quit being so irritating already.

[Oi, Gaharudo. That's enough from you. Hurry up and leave]

[Ah?]

As Hajime got up and ignored Gaharudo's voice of confusion, he activated the gate while firmly holding onto the root of Gaharudo's neck.

[O, oi! You can't be seriously sending me back at this moment! Wait a little, I've finally come to Fair Bergen, there's a lot of things I want to find out about. Also you guys too, tch let go! Kora, you! I'm the Emperor! Don't go dragging me!]

Although Gaharudo was struggling violently, he wasn't able to overcome the inhumane strength holding him and he was mercilessly thrown into the other side of the gate.

Certainly, the reason why they brought along the Emperor was only because he had to admit to the oath that the Hauria created and everything else he says afterwards was unnecessary but…..[I'll remember this! Nagumo Hajime~e!!] as the Emperor shouted out it

created a doppler effect as he disappeared onto the other side of the gate, that scene certainly provoked some sympathy.

Ririana who was by the side had an strangely glad face though, [Even though you're an Emperor~, even though you're an Emperor~, the way you're treated~] she muttered out rhythmically. It appears that she was happy to have made a new comrade in having been treated in the same crude way that she was treated with.

Recently, Ririana had started becoming a regrettable princess, Shizuku who was by her side looked at her regrettably.

On the hand, the elders, especially Zell, were glaring at Hajime. [Why, did you dismiss the Emperor!] is what their eyes were expressing. The truth was quite ridiculous, to be honest, Hajime had no reason to be here either so if Gaharudo was returned then he could quickly leave.

[Please wait, Nagumo-dono. We still haven't decided on an appropriate repayment. Would you please stay around for a bit longer]

[No, I don't need anything, so. Those glances are irritating so we're leaving]

[Don't say that. If nothing is done with this much debt of gratitude, it'll be extremely shameful for us Demi-humans. At the very least, allow us to give you a place to sleep and eat for tonight. That's why, please stay around a while longer]

[….Haa~, I get it]

Although Hajime thought it was troublesome, he nodded to Alfrerick and sat down where he was before. after confirming that, Alfrerick turned around towards Cam.

[Well then, with this, the distinguishing achievements that the Hauria tribe has done has certainly been confirmed. Even though you were banished, you've helped us repel the invasions, moreover, going even as far as getting back all of our brethren from the

Empire through an oath. We must repay you at all costs. For the time being, there is no one in opposition towards revoking your banishment. This was already decided after the last elder meeting after the invasion. From now on, you may visit Fair Bergen whenever you wish]

Revoking their banishment. That decision was already overturned at the last elder conference, having admitted to it just showed how big the achievements that the Hauria tribe contributed to were.

However, Cam only muttered, [Is that so], while not particularly glad at all. His attitude was that anything was fine.

[And also. For your distinguished achievements on this occasion, Cam, as chief of the Hauria tribe, I'd like to propose that as a reward, he may become a new elder. How do you other elders feel about it?]

All of the aides had wide opened eyes in surprise towards Alfrerick's words. Over the last several hundred years, there has never been an event where a different race was presented the seat of elder. It had always been the 6 kinds of Demi-humans, the Forest people, Tiger people, Bear people, Winged people, Fox people, and the natural natives. If you add in the Usagininzoku into that formula, then from the Demi-human's perspective, it could only be referred to as a historical feat of honor for their race.

The other elders looked at one another and nodded after hearing Alfrerick's words, it was a unanimous agreement.

[Fumu, that's how it is. Cam. Will you accept the seat as an elder?]

[Of course, I refuse]

[[[[[.....Eh?]]]]]

Somehow or another, an atmosphere like, [Lets welcome our new companion!] appeared but, Cam easily cut apart that atmosphere. All of the elder's eyes became dots. It seems that they never thought they'd be rejected.

[.....Can I hear why?]

Somehow Alfrerick managed to recover, he was bearing a headache, wondering what was bad about something that Demi-humans thought to have been the greatest reward.

[There's no particular reason, to begin with you guys are fundamentally mistaken about something]

[A misunderstanding?]

[That's right. The reason why all Demi-humans were rescued was only due to the occasion. What made us decide to take action was because we thought about the future which would be the end of the Usagininzoku. The other Demi-humans, if I were to say it, "doesn't matter"]

[……What was that]

The elders looked at Cam unbelievably who was talking indifferently.

[Therefore, don't get the wrong idea. We the Hauria tribe were never your ally. If, you guys who have tasted victory on this occasion decide to go off and wage war on the humans and start stocking up on weapons which cause trouble for us and boss then……you'd best believe that the Hauria tribe's blade will be pointed at you]

[Are, are we not your brethren! Do you plan on pointing your blades towards your own fellow Demi-humans! Isn't that insane!]

[Fu~n, it won't change that you guys look down on the Usagininzoku. There's no point in trying to get all intimate. Ma~a, that kind of thing doesn't really matter. Anyways, all of our blades are held simply for the Usagininzoku's future. As long as you guys carve that onto your chests, then its fine]

Cam's expression after he finished speaking was refreshed. The Hauria who were also behind him were also smiling. Becoming a new elder, if you think we'd use our power for you guys then you're sadly mistaken!- their eyes stated.

truthfully, it would be a lie to say that they haven't calculated that

far yet, Alfrerick and their expressions were bitter.

On one side, the people who were waiting around Hajime just watched everything unfold, then they all equally turned their eyes towards Hajime. [I don't care about anyone other than those important to me! I'm not interested! Pe～!] is what Cam's behavior was like, it was exactly like a certain somebody.

[It's as if you're saying that the Usagininzoku are independent from all the other Demi-humans]

[Alfrerick, you're always precise. It's exactly that. From now onwards, the Usagininzoku will be living by the rules of the Usagininzoku. Being incorporated into Fair Bergen's rules like a goody goody is something I want nothing to do with]

Aides and elders, the short-tempered Zell in particular, were extremely angry at Cam who was haughty. Although Cam had a cool face, the Hauria subordinates behind him were, [Ahh? got a problem with that!*Improvised, not really sure what they're doing here, やんのかゴラァ*] just like thugs who wanted to mince things up.

Within that, Alfrerick was thinking about something with a difficult expression, almost like ever since Hajime has showed up he's only been releasing tired expressions, then he talked to Cam.

[Then, Cam. How about if we recognise you guys as, "A race equal to Fair Bergen". Of course, that also gives you a special guest pass into the elders meetings. If we do this then you'd have no obligations to go along with what the elder meetings decide nor the laws of Fair Bergen, with that in mind, you'd have enough influence as us]

[Hoho～u. Ma～a, that's not a bad proposal]

Towards Alfrerick's new proposal, Cam smiled from ear to ear as if stating, [I wanted to hear those words!].

Cam had thought that in preparation for the day when the Empire eventually invades, he wanted some kind of connection with Fair

Bergen. However, if he had allowed themsleves to be incorporated into Fair Bergen then he wouldn't be able to ignore the elder meetings and he'd be restricted from moving around freely. That's why it was best if they were an alliance only in name or as an external organization.

But, it was obvious that voices of opposition would appear when the Hauria tribe were getting too much preferential treatment. Against that, Alfrerick answered out while sighing.

[They are people who accomplished things as just a single race? Even if Fair Bergen collaborated with all its power, we'd likely not be able to do it. If you think like that, then its more than enough reason to consider them as equals? Besides, there's also the possibility that this'll cause the Hauria tribe to cut off all ties with us, do you guys not understand the gravity of loss that'll be for us? If we form an alliance, they who have been banished will once again create a connection. If so then, things of this degree when compared to the size of their accomplishments isn't excessive at all]

Although the elders were twisting their heads while grunting out, gunununu, eventually no good proposals came out so the prestige of a single race was somehow pushed through the elders meeting and they decided to go along with what Alfrerick proposed.

[That's how it is, Cam. As a decision of the elder's meeting, the status of, "The Alliance Race", will be given to he Hauria tribe, would that be fine with you?]

[Ma~a, whether we're recognized or not, what we have to do doesn't change, but those kinds of things would be alright. Ahh, incidentally, we're using the big tree towards the south so you guys shouldn't wander in without permission? We can't guarantee your lives after all]

They never expected that Cam would place an additional order.

Or rather, he selfishly declared it was his land without permission. As expected, even Alfrerick's cheeks twitched a bit. Shia who was besides Hajime had covered her face with both her hands. It seems she was embarrassed at her fathers impudence. Her blood father

was letting out a Hyaha~ though.

Afterwards, the strangely tired looking elders left and Hajime and them went towards the big tree and were guided into their rooms at Fair Bergen.

The town was still stirring up a big uproar over the Demi-humans returning. Kouki and them were wondering if there was anything they could help with and took off but, Hajime and them decided to relax in the room indifferently.

By the way, Ririana had returned to the Kingdom a short while ago. It was still necessary to negotiate with the Empire and report of the current incident as well, they needed to decide the Kingdom's next moves.

Why, didn't she return at once, it was a simple story……from just a few minutes ago. Until Ririana said that she wanted to return to the Kingdom, Hajime had completely forgotten about her existence. When she passed through the gate, it's needless to say but something was shining within Ririana's eyes. *I.E. she was crying*

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Midnight

Even now, clamor can be heard throughout the whole town. They may have been holding some kind of celebration and feast somewhere.

Within that, Hajime and them who were relaxing as they desired inside of their room. But, there was one person who was strangely restless.

It was Shia. Since a while ago, she's been frequently glancing at Hajime and thinking about something.

To begin with, the person in question was receiving a lap pillow from Yue and was partly dozing off into the world of dreams, so he wasn't aware of Shia's state. As expected, his bones gave out after having to carry thousands of people. Yue was gently stroking Hajime who became dull as he relaxed his body, [Fumu], she
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looked at Shia sideways as she tilt her head.

Right afterwards, she looked at Teio and Kaori who were besides Hajime and were looking at her enviously. And once again, [Fumu], she nodded, she slowly called out to Kaori and Teio.

[…..Kaori, Teio. You want to perform the lap pillow?]

[Eh? You'll switch with us?]

[Mu? Of course I want to]

Teio and Kaori gave her eyes filled with expectations and Yue incidentally laughed.

[…..I'm just asking]

[[…….]]

Yue had a smile on her lips as if something foolish happened. When they saw that, a blue vein appeared on Kaori and Teio's forehead. Furthermore, Yue also said, [How is it, you're jealous right?], as she tightly held onto Hajime's head.

[……Yue, are you asking for a fight? Are you?]

[Fufufu, mistress, that annoyed me quite a bit]

[…..Are we doing this?]

Towards Yue's provocative smile, the two people, [If it's the continuation from the daytime then I'll take you up on it!], they said while getting up. By the way, the winners of the matching during the daytime was the Yue and Shia pair.

[……..If you catch me who's running, I'll allow you to be next to Hajime for this night]

[[!]]

As expected, they couldn't hold a mock battle within the town so Yue proposed a game of tag. And the reward for victory was

unprecedented. Kaori and Teio's tension became high even though it was midnight.

When Yue confirmed the reaction of the two people, she gently placed Hajime's head onto a pillow and stroke him once lovingly. And as if not affected by gravity, she gently jumped towards the window and just like she was dancing, she opened the window as she turned around.

On that occasion, [What?] she glanced towards shia and blinked her eye for a moment. Shia seemed to realise Yue's intention and with a small smile she nodded in gratitude.

[……Game Start *english*]

As Yue let out those words she slipped out from of the window and in the next moment, she merged with the darkness and disappeared.

[Ku, I'll definitely catch her! For the sake of sharing a bed!]

[Fufu, I won't lose]

With a yell full of spirit. Kaori with her silver wings and Teio who grew dragon wings, jumped out from the window.

Shia who was the onlooker didn't follow them though because she understood that Yue had purposely provoked Kaori and Teio, so she intended to take advantage of the chance that she was thankful for obtaining. Excitedly, she went by Hajime's side and gently woke him up.

[Hajime-san, Hajime-san……please wake up]

[N? What's wrong, Shia. Or rather, just a while ago Yue and them left but…..you didn't go with them?]

Even while he was still half asleep, Hajime had felt from the flow of magical power that Yue and them had left through the window, why are you still here? he tilted his neck.

[Eh~tto, it seems that I missed it somehow or another, that kind of feeling]

[…..Somehow or another, huh]

[Uu~. Rather than that! Everyone else has left, should we also go out for a stroll? I don't know anything about Fair Bergen's interior]

Because of Shia's hair color, she wasn't allowed out in public, so the first time she's been to Fair Bergen was with Hajime and them. At that time as well, since they suddenly left immediately she didn't have time to explore the whole town.

[…..Ma~a, I guess that's fine]

[Yes! It's a midnight date! …….It sounds a little obscene]

[I don't know about that*A who cares, feeling*]

Somehow or another, he felt that Shia wanted to talk, truthfully he wanted to continue sleeping but, Hajime decided that he had no other choice but to follow along. Shia joyfully clung onto Hajime's arm tightly. Then the two with their arms entwined walked out into the midnight of Fair Bergen.

After about 10 minutes, as the two people who were on a stroll were having an innocent talk, they came to notice that they've walked far enough to not hear the town's clamor anymore. And they also noticed that something at the top of the trees were shining out in pale blue light.

[Ah~, those are Montofaruta, Hajime-san]

[Montofaruta?]

[Yes, its a butterfly which emits a pale blue light just like the moonlight. They crowd onto tall trees because of the wind, in the night they look just like cheerful stars in the sky. Except, it's not known when they'll actually emit their light so this is quite a rare sight. You either see it only once a year or see nothing at all]

[He~e, they're certainly beautiful things]

The two who were looking upwards, decided that since it was such a rare sight they should get a closer look so they quickly climbed up

higher on a tree, they found a thick branch and sat down beside each other. For a while, they enjoyed the light that the Montofaruta emitted just like a planetarium.

How many of them were there? slowly Shia began to open her mouth.

[Ano, Hajime-san]

[N?]

[Thank you very much. For a lot of things that I can't put in words….really, thank you very much]

[……Ahh. If you want to fully show your gratitude. Then I'm expecting things from you when we take on the great labyrinth]

[Fufu. Isn't this when you usually say "Don't mind it"?]

Shia laughed giggly towards the Hajime-like answer. However it quickly changed into a difficult expression and she turned her gaze onto Hajime.

[What should I do to repay Hajime-san?]

[If it's repaying then didn't I just receive it?]

[That was just words wasn't it. I want to repay your kindness in some kind of form. Can you think of what I can do which'll make you happy? ……If Hajime-san desires it then, I'll do anything. Really, anything]

Shia's Usamimi's moved around ~Piko Piko~ and she edged her but into contact with Hajime. Her eyes that were looking at Hajime were already moistening and contained heat, and her sighs contained enough heat that it seems like it'll burn on contact. The implied meaning, Hajime had certainly understood what Shia was saying but, he was daringly pretending to have not noticed.

[…..It'll be fine as long as you're still the same happy-go-lucky woman and laughing. You're our mood-maker after all?]

[Mo~u, what's with that, happy-go-lucky you say! Even though you hugged me in front of the Emperor and said I was important! This is the scene where say, [Then I'll have you repay with your body then, guhhehhehhe!], and attack me isn't it. Please read the atmosphere]

[It seems that we need to have a thorough talk about the image that you see me in]

[You're a single-minded good for nothing]

[Being single-minded there is usually a good thing though]

Shia puffed out her cheeks to show that she was dissatisfied. However, she quickly hung her head down disappointedly. Her Usamimi's also hung down as if they suddenly lost their power.

[……I'm serious, I want to do something to thank you. Ever since I've met Hajime-san and everyone else, I've l always gave it my all*I think, 私はずっと貰いっぱなしです*. Although Hajime-san and Yue-san says that its fine if I just laugh but, just being with you 2 will naturally make me feel happy, it's definitely nothing like showing gratitude]

[But still, you're our companion right? I don't think you have to continuously think about such things]

[It's courtesy in intimate relationships. I want to properly thank Hajime-san and Yue-san as well. …..I've thought about it variously but, I just can't seem to think of anything. Hajime-san says that he doesn't need my body after all…..even though he tightly embraced me and said I was important, to tell me that I'm not needed…..]

[Don't sulk now…..]

Hajime was showing a troubled expression now that Shia was being timid. Even though he was being told that she wanted to express her gratitude, helping someone related to you was the natural course of action, really, just one word, [Thanks] would have been enough.

But, for Shia, those feelings didn't seem to sit well with her.

[If Hajime-san has fallen for me then I wouldn't be going through all these hardships. I'd fully service (thank) you…..ha~a, there's no helping it then. I'll try harder to be much more useful than before as we travel in order to relay my thanks]

[I see]

When Shia shrugged her shoulders, once again, she looked up towards the Montofaruta up above.

While looking at her stature, Hajime was suddenly beginning to remember when he embraced Yue and Shia in front of Gaharudo.

Being truthful, that was pretty much done unconsciously. Once he came to, he had already embraced both of them.

As of now, the huge feelings of declaring someone as "Special" could only be said to Yue. That's something that can be firmly declared. However, even if it was unconsciously, the reason why he held Shia within his arms was…….

Thinking up to that point, Hajime had a smile filled with self-mockery.

How could this be, ma~a, it was because he was selfish. While saying that no one was able to be on par with Yue, to have the desires to possess Shia, it was truly selfish. Once he realised it, Shia's existence somehow became much larger than before. At the very least, as much as Yue where he unconsciously embraced her so that he wouldn't lose her.

Although he'll likely still hold more feelings for Yue than any other person, even still, he doesn't seem to be able to deceive himself about his desire for Shia anymore. Once he became aware of it, he wasn't able to pretend that it wasn't there. If so then, do your best so work hard, how about taking on the attitude of the girl who came with them? Hajime suddenly thought.

[Eh, Ehtto, what is it? It's extremely embarrassing to be quietly stared at….]

Once he came to, Shia's cheeks were dyed red blushing shyly and

squirming nervously. Her Usamimi as well as if saying, [U~u, why are you looking~], it suddenly dropped down, occasionally, she'd squirm around and look towards Hajime.

Hajime's eyes soften up when he sees Shia like this and he reached out with his hand. And her shy Usamimis were gently stroked.

[Ha, Hajime-san?]

[……Na~a, Shia. I've got a favor I want to ask…..]

[A favor? Of course, it's fine! Feel free to ask for anything]

For a moment, she was surprised by Hajime's words, since she could show her gratitude even a little bit, Shia consented willingly while smiling.

[No, lets see, I kinda want to lie down for a bit. If you're up for it, can I ask for a lap pillow?]

[Fu~e, even if you didn't ask, please use it anytime. Sa~a, please step right up]

[Thanks]

Although Shia showed a slightly disappointed expression from Hajime's request, she was happy that she was giving him a lap pillow and she patted her thighs with a bright smile. Hajime expressed his thanks with a smile and laid down without hesitation.

Because Shia wore a miniskirt, he was able to fully feel the feelings of her thighs. A soft and warm puffy feeling supported Hajime's head. It faintly resembled Yue's, as a sweet scent tickled his nose.

[Fufu, it's unfortunate for Kaori-san and Teio-san. Around this time, they're fighting against Yue-san in order to give Hajime-san a lap pillow, but I've already taken it ahead of them]

[Ma~a, Yue'll win anyways so there's no reason to worry about it?]

[You shouldn't say such things. Since they're want to make Hajime-san fall for them they're working hard. Really, I wonder when will

Hajime-san finally fall for me~]

[…..Will you give up?]

[No way~]

[I see~]

Shia was gently stroking Hajime's hair. Hajime narrowed his eyes as he became comfortable. And as payback, he played with Shia's hair that hung down before him. The pale blue white hair was really mysterious when it was combined with the light being emitted by the Montofaruta that were above them.

If someone had seen Shia and Hajime right now, they would have surely had an face which vomited due to the sugar. That was how sweet those two's atmosphere was. Right, it was exactly like the separate world that Hajime and Yue created.

However, unfortunately, although it was the atmosphere which was created with Yue that Shia longed for, she didn't notice at all. On that part, perhaps Shia could truly be called a regrettable rabbit.

Even with the actual person not realising, the sweet time continued to flow gently. Within the moonlight where the Montofaruta illuminated, Hajime and Shia were enjoying their time alone with each other.

lol Author notes that it's getting near the end so there should at least be some kind of progression with another girl other than Yue

Chapter 124

In the dense fog that clung onto bodies, people's shadow could be seen moving on without hesitation.

It was Hajime and them.

With Shia in the front, Hajime and them are currently heading towards the big tree. It's the second day after they've arrived at Fair Bergen, the cycle for the path to the big tree to open has finally come.

Within that time, there were various disturbances which Hajime and them were caught up in as they stayed in Fair Bergen but, if you compare it with what usually happens, it's likely not to such a high extent that it couldn't be categorized as their daily lives.

Mainly, the thing with Kouki and the freed slaves (girls), a group of male Demi-human's were doing this and that to hajime because of the thing with Arutena, and Ryutaro was doing this and that with the Demi-humans martial arts masters……those kind of stories.

Along the way, forest demons launched a surprise attack under the fog. However, Hajime and the rest, Yue, Shia, Teio, and the Hauria didn't deal with it at all, they left everything up to Kouki and them. Since they didn't know what kind of trials the great labyrinth [Harutsuina Sea of Trees] holds, as a warm up they were told to take out the demons.

To begin with, because the Sea of Trees drives the senses of other races besides the Demi-humans mad, it was completely different than fighting against the demons at [Orcus Great Labyrinth], Kouki and them were having a pretty hard fight. They kept teasing by using hit and run tactics repeatedly and Ryutaro was plainly irritated at the demons who made full use of the dense fog.

[……There! Like this….this!]

Within there, Kaori was mixed into Kouki and them's repeated combat.

Kaori still wasn't completely in full control of Nointo's body yet so she was there voluntarily to train. It appears that, the dense fog didn't effect Nointo's body as much, it seems to be just the right adjustment for the battle experience and trace skills that Nointo had.

Even now, while fluttering her wings which shined in silver, it shot out silver feathers to repel the demons. It appears that she's gotten used to using the silver feathers, as if they were homing missiles, they launched out at the demons and instantly decomposed them to nothingness.

[Ya!]

In addition, while giving out a shout, the approaching demons who slipped past the silver feathers were wonderfully cut into 2 by the great sword that was clad in silver light that was pulled out in an instant.

It seems that she still couldn't wield them freely like how Nointo did but, if its just one hit then she's considerably skilled. At the very least, it was at the level where she couldn't be embarrassed to call herself a "Swordsman".

[I seem to be considerably getting used to this. It's worthwhile that I get into a fight with Yue everyday] *<-This part may be wrong, it sounds different from what the machine's actually giving me, ユエと喧嘩しているだけの事はある*

[…….Your spec's are abnormal. I can't afford to be careless]

Hajime let out a breath and muttered, [Fuu~], as he watched Kaori's figure.

Although she's still not on the original Nointo's level yet which was able to give the Hajime at full power a hard fight, but if you think about her growth rate, it was wonderful since it was still only around 10 days since her soul was transferred. Kaori's diligence is likely allowing her to rapidly master Nointo's fighting power.

[That's not true. I'm still not accustomed to using magic while

fighting, if I don't concentrate on Decomposition it wont activate as well…..I still can't even get a hit off of Yue]

It appears that she heard the conversation between Hajime and Yue, Kaori was pouting as she moved forwards. She wants to quickly become stronger, she has the image but, she's frustrated that it doesn't go as she thought it would…..those kind of feelings are reflected on her expression.

[…….Kaori. What are you saying. Your physical abilities exceeds ours, you have the brutal ability of decomposition in your silver wings, and you've got aptitude in all attributes and can use magic without having to chant and without magic formations. Your swordsmanship is also progressing limitlessly like a joke as well, due to your proficiency in recovery magic, your defenses are like a fortress, even if they successfully inflict a wound onto you, it'll heal up immediately….it's already unsuitable to call you a cheat anymore, you're more like a bugged character. Yet you're still dissatisfied?]

Shizuku pointed out her specs as if she was amazed, Kaori had felt that she definitely felt like a monster so she just let her eyes wander around.

[But, I can't defeat Yue or Shia…..if I'm a bugged character then, what are Hajime-kun and them?]

[…..Something hard to describe or something…like that…..]

Shizuku was showing a difficult expression as she thought of the best way to describe Hajime and them, it seems that nothing came to mind in the end. Kouki called out to Shizuku.

[It's fine, Shizuku. As long as we can clear the great labyrinth then even we can become as strong as Nagumo. No, if you think about Nagumo's non-fighting class, surely we'd be able to be stronger than him]

[Looks like it. I'm looking forwards to find out what kind of magic we'll obtain]

[Un, lets do our best!]

Although Hajime's strength doesn't come solely from Age of Gods magic, Kouki who was through with it was strongly clenching his fist. Ryutaro and Suzu also seemed to have been pumped up.

[Every～one, We've reached it～]

When Kouki and them were firing themselves up, Shia tells them of their arrival at the big tree as she looked back over her shoulder. When Hajime and them chased after Shia who advanced ahead and disappeared into the other side of the fog, they arrived at a space that had no fog. Towering in front was a withered huge tree just exactly like they saw before.

[This is…..the big tree…..]

[It's large…..]

[It's extremely……huge]

While looking above their heads, they weren't even able to see the top of the big tree, Kouki and them had their mouths opened absentmindedly as its width was so long it was as if they were standing in front of a wall. Surely it was the same expression anyone else would have had when seeing it for the first time, Hajime and Yue had a small smile while looking at eachother.

Hajime approached the lithograph while pulling out all the proofs that he's obtained from the other great labyrinths out of his "Treasure Warehouse". The lithograph hasn't changed since last time, crests of the 7 great labyrinths are drawn on the front and it's back was hollow in order to allow the proofs to be place in.

While crouching down, Hajime was playing with the 5 proofs in his palm, Kouki and them were finally freed from the large tree's dignified appearance and focused on Hajime. From now on it'll be a place where anything can truly happen at anytime. While bracing themselves, Hajime looked sharply at Kouki and them.

[Cam, Since we don't know what'll happen from now on, back off with the Hauria tribe]

[Roger, boss. May fortune be with you]

By Fair Bergen's negotiations, the south land with the big tree became Cam and their territory but, from Hajime's words his expression became a bit disappointed, However he still decided to salute and then everyone spread out together.

When he confirmed that, Hajime slowly placed the [Orcus Great Labyrinth] ring of proof into the hollow section of the lithograph. Once it was placed, the lithograph began to shine faintly and characters appeared.

"4 proofs"

"Power of Reproduction"

"Guidepost of weaved bonds"

"A path for a new trial shall be open for those who have everything"

[This is the same as before as well. The used proof….is anything other than [Kamiyama] fine]

Hajime went ahead and set the proofs into the lithograph that while muttering. [Raisen's Ring] [Guryuen's Pendant] [Merujine's Coin] ……

Each time one was set into the lithograph, it's light strengthened up. And immediately after placing the final coin, the light was set free and it scattered onto the front of the big tree, this time the big tree was the one that shined brightly.

[Mu? A crest has appeared on the big tree]

[…..Next is, the power of Reproduction?]

As Teio muttered with great interest, a pattern of the 7 angel systems stood out on the trunk of the large tree. Yue walked towards the shining pattern and while quietly touching it she used Reproduction magic.

Immediately afterwards,

Pa~aaaaa!!

The big tree was wrapped up in a light uncomparable to before, a wave of light was continuously rippling towards the top from the place that Yue had touched.

The big tree that was shining brightly, gradually revived as the light spread out to every corner as if it was absorbing water from its roots.

[Ah, leaves…..]

Shia pointed at the leaves which appeared as the tree regained it's vitality with each passing moment. It was almost like looking at the birth of life, Hajime and them were staring at what was in front of their eyes with a mysterious feeling, the big tree was quickly growing and it regained its bright green looks.

As a slightly strong wind blew by, the sound of the large tree's leaves rustling around could be heard. Then, at the next moment, all of the sudden, the front of the tree trunk was split from the right and left and a cave appeared. It was a big cave which could fit several tens of people.

Hajime and them looked at each others faces and nodded to each other and stepped into the cave without hesitation.

Hajime was slightly concerned——would the other members who have not captured 4 great labyrinths actually be able to challenge the great labyrinth of the Sea of Trees, but it appears that it was pointless worries. Everyone was able to enter the cave without a problem.

It was probably like the other great labyrinths in the stance of, [If you want to enter, it's fine as long as you have what's necessary. However, your life is not guaranteed].

Hajime looked around the surroundings. But, there didn't seem to be anything particular in the cave. It was simply a huge space which extended out like a dome.

[Is it a dead-end?]

Kouki muttered out doubtfully.

Immediately afterwards, the entrance to the cave began to shut as if it had been reverse-reproductioned.

The light from the outside gradually thinned out. Hajime scolded Kouki who instinctively panicked. When the entrance was completely shut, the inside of the cave was wrapped in darkness, immediately Yue secured a light source and held it up in her hand. However there was no need for it.

That's because a huge magic formation appeared underneath their legs and it emitted strong light.

[Uwa, what's this!]

[What's up! What is this!]

[Quit making so much noise! Its a transfer magic formation! Don't be careless when you're transferred!]

After Hajime warned the shaken Ryutaro and Suzu, their view blacked out.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

[~…….This is……]

What reflected in Hajime and their view when the light returned was a lush forest. A sea of trees inside of a tree…..created an indescribably odd situation.

[Is everyone alright?]

Kouki lightly shook his head and confirmed his surroundings for the safety of his comrades. There Shizuku and them, [We're fine], replied. Yue, Shia, Teio, and Kaori didn't seem to have any particular problems either, they watched their surroundings with caution.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

[Nagumo, this is really the great labyrinth right? ……Which way should we progress in?]

The place where Hajime and them were transferred to was, a vacant circled lot where they were completely surrounded by trees in 360 degrees, there wasn't a guidepost indicating which way they should go either.

Since it's covered in a dense fog, it doesn't seem like flying overhead to look for a path would be useful. That's why Kouki asked Hajime who had lots of experience with great labyrinths.

[……For the time being, we've got no choice but to look around]

Hajime muttered out with a slightly displeased expression, he placed his hand onto the trunk of a tree and activated "Tracing". A magic mark was created, a bright red arrow was placed onto the tree and pointing in the direction where they were going.

When Kouki and them saw that they nodded. It seems they understood that they had no choice but to search while placing signs. And they took the lead since they heard that even if you cleared the labyrinth, if they weren't recognized by the great labyrinth then they wouldn't be able to obtain Age of Gods magic.

The other members followed behind successively. However, only Hajime didn't move from his place as his eyes retained coldness within it. As they began to walk, Shia noticed and a "?" appeared over her head as she turned back towards Hajime.

[……Hajime-san? Whats wro—-]

Shia called out to Hajime……in that moment,

Shuba!

When they heard that wind-like noise ring out, in a instant Yue and Teio, as well as Ryutaro were coiled by a wire, with both spheres on both ends fixed into the air they were restrained. Hajime had taken out the bola from his "Treasure Warehouse" and quickly thrown them to bind them.

Yue, Teio, and Ryutaro wiggled around as they struggled. When Kouki and them saw that they were dumbfounded. However, once they regained their sanity and as if it was able to produce a ～Ki～ sound they immediately glared strongly at Hajime.

[Nagumo! What exactly are you doing!]

Kouki instinctively raised his voice angrily. Shizuku and them had tensed expressions as their eyes conveyed that they wanted an explanation from Hajime.

[……Be quiet for a bit]

However, Hajime only said that and didn't answer Kouki and their doubts and silently looked towards Yue, he briskly walked up towards her who was expressionless.

And, as Yue looked up at Hajime perplexedly, Hajime pressed Donner against her forehead. His eyes had a coldness of absolute zero within them, it was obvious that Hajime was completely furious in anger.

[Hajime….What i-]

Yue had a, I can't believe it, expression as Hajime pointed his muzzle at her. And when she tried to voice out her doubt as she called Hajime's name.

However, immediately after that,

Dopan!

Hajime pulled Donner's trigger without hesitation. A dry explosive noise echoed throughout the sea of trees. For now, although the muzzle was removed from Yue's forehead and pointed towards her shoulder, even still it didn't change the fact that Hajime had shot his beloved lover.

Towards that fact, it was obvious that Kouki and them as well as Shia and them were intensely shaken. And they looked at Hajime with eyes that doubted his sanity.

[Wha, what are you doing! Nagumo-kun!]

[Hajime-kun! Stop!]

Shizuku and Kaori raised their voices to attempt to stop Hajime who was filled with rage but, Shia finally noticed the sense of incongruity and held onto Kaori and them by the hand instead.

Although there was an air like Kouki would spring at any moment to try and restrain Hajime but, that disappeared after Hajime's next words.

[Don't speak without permission, Imitations. You're only an imitation and you dare imitate Yue's voice. If you dare to call my name with that voice again. I'll scrape off your hands and feet]

The moment Hajime uttered his voice, as if the ground was arctic cold, the air was filled with coldness. However the temperature hasn't actually fallen. Murderous intent was overflowing from his body and in turn dropped the heat that life was giving out. Somehow, even the surroundings became dark. Towards the dense murderous intent, Kouki and them naturally became shallow breathed and cold sweat ran down like a waterfall.

[What are you? Where is the real Yue?]

[……]

Yue's appearance was as if stating, "What is it", with her expression and was silently unmoved in her stance *＜-I improvised and have a feeling the ending here is incorrect by a lot, ユエの姿をした"何か"は表情をストンと落とすと無機質な雰囲気を纏って無言を貫いた*. Rather than "Who are you" it was "What are you", this was because blood was not flowing from where she was shot in the shoulder. It was obvious that it wasn't a "person".

Dopan!

This time Hajime shot through the opposite shoulder. However the fake Yue still didn't change her expression. It appears that they didn't have a sense of pain. Just like Nointo, they carried an image as if they were puppets, or they may not actually have any will of

their own.

[Are you not going to answer. ……No, do you not have a function to answer. Then its fine already. Die]

Dopan!

This time Hajime pointed Donner's muzzle onto Yue's forehead and used a rail gun to blast her head off. Behind Yue (Fake), something was splattering and scattering.

Although Shizuku and them instinctively turned away from it, if you took the time to look at it, it wasn't a brain but a rust colored slime that had scattered. Yue's (Fake) body which lost it's head was beginning to melt after one beat, it similarly turned into a rust colored slime and stained into the ground.

Hajime continued to shoot through Teio and Ryutaro's heads consecutively while they were still restrained by the bola. As the two people splattered Kouki and them instinctively had goosebumps but, as expected they turned into a rust colored slime and were inhaled into the ground just like the Yue (Fake) slime.

[Chi. As expected of a great labyrinth. Starting right off the bat….]

Hajime cursed out as he holstered Donner.

[Hajime-san…..Yue-san and Teio-san are…..]

[They must have been transferred to a different location from earlier. There was a slight sense of the feeling when our memories were being searched by Age of Gods magic. The rust colored slimes who obtained the memories used their mimic abilities to disguise themselves, it felt like they had openings from behind?] *＜-Unsure about this part, 隙を見て背後からって感じじゃないか*

Hajime's expression distorts into a bad mood as his lover turned into soup. Shizuku and Suzu nodded as if they felt admiration as they heard Hajime's guess.

[I see. …..Even still you've done good to notice]

[Un un, Suzu wasn't able to tell the difference at all. How did you notice?]

Suzu asked for Hajime's identification tips as it would be troubling if they couldn't distinct their own comrades apart. Kouki looked at Hajime with interest as well while worrying about the safety of his best friend.

Hajime's answer towards that question was….

[Even if you asked me. …..I can only say that the instant I saw them, I noticed. What was before my eyes was "Not my Yue"]

[[[[[……..]]]]]

In a sense, all members lost their strength when the answer was him speaking fondly of his sweetheart.

[Then, how about Ryutaro-kun and Teio-san?]

[Once you know that there are imposters then, with the "Magic Eye Stone" if you look carefully you can see a sense of incongruity. That's why you don't have to worry as long as you're with me from now on]

Is that so~, Kouki and them looked at Hajime amazedly. Within that, as if Shia thought of something she went, ~ha~, while fidgeting she asked Hajime while expecting something.

[Ano, Hajime-san…..if it was me, would you also notice it in an instant?]

[!]

Kaori who was next to Shia reacted, in her glance she asked, [How about me?]. Somehow or another eyes were attracted to Hajime. Inside of the delicate bittersweet atmosphere, Hajime answered plainly without much vigor.

[Sa~a? Isn't it impossible for just a moments glance?]

[[……..]]

Usually while one was reading the air, [Of course, Isn't it obvious that I'd realize it?], and answer like that but, this was part of Hajime's quality. While thinking that he mercilessly answered.

Unintentionally Shia and Kaori continued to stare at him but, Hajime continued to advance into the depths of the sea of trees while being indifferent about the two people's glances.

[It's questionable how he can have such strong nerves….]

[Au, Kaolin, Shiashia, cheer up!]

[Kaori is really, what about that guy is…..]

While following after Hajime, Shizuku and them glanced at Shia and Kaori who puffed their cheeks in a bad mood from their appeal. While having various problems at the the start of the line, they stepped into the sea of trees.

By the way, in his mind, [If it was Shia I'd know], is what Hajime had thought but…..he had just decided to take on an honest attitude but he carelessly said that bluntly so he may very well be a tsundere.

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~~~

physiological disgust she felt from looking at the demon.

That may be something that can't be helped. After all, the reason for the buzzing was a toddler sized "Bee". If you compared it in form then it would be a hornet. The super-huge bee-typed demon were attacking in swarms with their tough jaws and lethal stingers.

With a malicious yellow and black hue, their jaws creaked as it opened and closed, their stingers had green liquid dripping from it, their feet that waved around eerily, and their dark red compound eyes……it certainly was a creature that you'd want to avoid.

Moreover, this bee-typed demon were hard to deal with because they were quick and they cooperated in groups. Furthermore, they could continuously shoot out their needles since a new one would immediately grow in its place, from mid-range it was exactly like a machine-gun so there was the threat of being swept by a rain of stingers.

Somehow Suzu's barriers were keeping out the stingers, as opposed to Kouki's method of hammering them with a single blow, Shizuku was breaking apart their cooperation and speed, however the swarm of bee's were not decreasing in numbers at all.

[Damn, these guys, they're exactly like the Majinzoku's demons!]

[No, it's reversed isn't it? They're monsters are similar to the great labyrinth's monsters]

Kouki wielded his sacred sword with a desperate look, he remembered the scene of bloodshed that they experienced previously and unintentionally cursed out. They had absolutely no space to relax because the great labyrinth's monsters were so strong.

At the moment a mantis-shaped demon that was around 2 meters in length was about to do a surprise attack on Kouki from behind but, Hajime killed it in an instant and tsukkomied at the same time.

A slight distance away from Hajime, Shia was killing 3 meter ant-typed demons in a single hit with Doryukken and blasting through

the ground building a mountain of corpses. Kaori wasn't losing either, she continuously shot out silver feathers and close to 30 bee's were already shot down and decomposed.

When Kouki saw the spectacle that came into view, he grit his teeth as he feels the difference between Hajime and their powers once again.

["Beyond Heaven-ugh" "Beyond Heaven-ugh"! It's useless. We'll be overwhelmed!]

Suzu who was close to tears, created several shining shields, she kept repeatedly building new ones as soon as the previous ones were destroyed, Suzu's magical power was mercilessly shaved down.

"Beyond Heaven" is not that strong but its strength is that it can be produced in great numbers, Suzu was a "Barrier Master" so her barriers also carried enough strength to take on several attacks from normal demons before they were destroyed.

However, in front of the bee-typed demon's stingers that they shot out, those barriers were instantly broken as if they were paper waste, currently Suzu was being forced to deploy barriers at unprecedented speeds.

Little by little, little by little, the deployment of barriers were being delayed and the scene of flying stingers gradually fills the distance, it was as if she was being strangled by a line of silk and it damaged Suzu's mind.

[Run rampant, "Thunder Flower"! mince them, "Flash Claw"!]*<- What I'm calling it, 爪閃*

Along with Shizuku's chants, a sinister flower of thunder bloomed in the sky, and a claw of wind minced through. She demonstrated her black katana's abilities on the approaching bee-typed demons.

With her sharp swordsmanship, she was certainly feeling the feedback of the demons being torn apart. With Shizuku being a Speed Fighter, being paired up against the bees was a good match.

While disturbing their cooperation with her free movement skill “No Rhythm”, one by one she was sure to slaughter them.

However, the bee-typed demon’s strength was their numbers. Even if she could defeat them, Shizuku was lacking in overwhelming annihilation powers. Hence, the war situation was that they were gradually being pushed, Shizuku who noticed that had a bitter expression.

[Will of the blade, harboring light which will tear apart the enemy! “Light Blade”!]

Thanks to Shizuku, Kouki was able to chant as he liked and his sacred sword was coated by a sword of light.

The light blade extended his sacred sword by about another 2 meters in length. Kouki swung the huge blade of light while rotating his body in one motion which cut through all gathered surrounding bee-typed demons.

However because the motion of the attack held too many openings, the demons charged in towards him. In response his body was hurled backwards.

[Ku, why you!]

[Kouki!]

The bee-typed demon was about to thrust its stinger into him but, fortunately, Kouki’s sacred armor prevented the stinger from coming near, Kouki somehow managed to use that chance to get up and cut off it’s head.

He had no room to answer Shizuku’s worried voice. In the next moment, he was attacked by huge quantities of demons so Kouki needed to finish recovering his balance.

[Uo～ooooo!]

Although Kouki waved his sacred sword while shouting, the demons in the great labyrinth weren’t sweet enough to spare you any time when you’ve exposed a chance. At last, a bee-typed demon

managed to slip past the sacred sword and get behind him, it then clung onto him from behind like spikes on shoes, it was trying to use its jaws to tear through Kouki's neck.

[~!?]

Kouki raised a voiceless scream.

in that juncture,

Dopan!

A gunshot.

The moment when the bee's jaws were about to pierce through Kouki's neck, a flash of light surged out from the side as it cut through the sky and easily blew off the bee-typed demon's head off.

Kouki who was unsteady due to the aftereffect, ignored the heat that he felt on his neck and separated himself from the remains of the bee-typed demon that was clinging onto him. Although it was a narrow escape from death, Kouki's cheeks cramped as more demons swarmed him.

——I'll be overwhelmed!

He was convinced. A voice that had no sense of panic was heard in Kouki's ears.

[Don't move, Amanogawa]

Immediately afterwards, countless meteors fell down upon the bee-typed demons and mercilessly trampled them.

Doo~opan! Doo~opan! Doo~opan! Doo~opan! Doo~opan!

You could only hear one gunshot but, the truth was that there were 6 flashes produced. *<- lol wut? the author only had 5 Doo~opan's*

The shining red spear of light pierced through all demons in the line of fire and killed them instantly. In addition, the bullets were shot

out with well-thought out trajectories, they went through the air and collided with the other bullets and with that slight change in angle they efficiently pierced through more Demons.

According to their viewpoint, it almost seemed as if the enemies voluntarily jumped into the bullets. Such special technique could be called an admirable performance, the demons which were giving Kouki a hard time were overwhelmed by Hajime, the bullets were continuously spinning and reloading one another, in addition Donner and Schlag shot out when they fell into confusion.

……It didn't even take 1 minute before everything was taken care of. It was instant killings.

Hajime who annihilated the bee-typed demons in no time at all holstered Donner and Schlag as if nothing happened, he approached the defeated monsters as Kouki and them were stunned.

[Chi, it doesn't seem like there's any meaning even if I ate them…..]

[E, eat? Eh, Nagumo-kun, you intended to eat this? Seriously?]

Instinctively, Shizuku asked after being influenced by the previous act of devastation.

[Did I not say it before? …..If I eat a demon which is equal or higher than me, I can take in the opponents inherent magic for myself. In the abyss, the only thing there was to eat were demons. Ahh, you guys shouldn't copy me. Without a doubt you'd die]

[Even if you didn't say it, we wouldn't. Hearing it once again is truly sublime…..]

Shizuku was looking at Hajime with a complex expression. He's really reliable since he's helped them countless times by now but, she was reminded once again of where that power came from was through a sublime experience, she was lost on whether she should honestly feel admiration or not.

[Bu, but, why aren't you eating this thing then? No, as for Suzu, suzu doesn't want to see such a predation scene so you don't have to eat it but……]

[I just said it just now? There's no meaning unless they're equal or higher than me. The guys around here are all small frys]

[……I See~. For Nagumo-kun, this monster is a small fry~. I see~, ahaha]

[Suzu, I understand your feelings so don't break. Please come back]

Suzu who was giving a dry laugh as if slightly broken and Shizuku was sighingly asking her to regain her sanity.

[……..]

Within that, only Kouki was staring at the remains of the demons that Hajime had created while tightly grasping the sword in his grip. For himself, the enemy was powerful to the extent where he had almost lost his life, but Hajime evaluated them as if they were just stones on the side of the road without any value, he felt unpleasant from their difference in ability. Although he was trying to pretend to not notice, dark emotions were beginning to swell up again within his heart.

Hajime glanced over at Kouki who was standing still silently.

[…….Amanogawa]

[~. Wh, what is it?]

[For now just think about finding your childhood friend. Being worried about this and that, it'll be fine as long as you do what you have to do]

[Ah, ahh. You're right, we have to quickly find Ryutaro and them….]

Although he stuttered somewhat, Kouki nodded firmly towards Hajime's words. He braced himself again to search for his missing childhood friend.

After Hajime was glancing at Kouki like that, he seemed to have lost interest and averted his glance.

As a matter of fact, Hajime had clearly understood what Kouki was feeling. Inferiority complex and frustration, jealousy of strength……..they were emotions which Hajime had felt once before.

He never thought that Kouki who had everything would be feeling that way towards himself, it was a rather ironic subject. As Hajime was thinking about such things, because he had no feelings to consider for Kouki, he was simply through with it. The words from awhile ago that Hajime said out was already a big treat.

[Hajime-san, the other side was cleaned up~]

[Fu~u, this side is done too]

In the meantime, Kaori and Shia who finished dealing with the demons came back.

[Alright. Well then, shall we depart. I think that if its Yue and Teio then it's alright but, we should still regroup with them as quickly as possible. Sakagami is……ma~a, whatever happens, happens]

[Wha-, aren't you treating Ryutaro too crudely? Say, I know that your lover is important and all but….]

From what Hajime said, Shizuku had a troubled expression as she tsukkomied. The party advanced through the interior of the sea of trees to look for their companions who were separated from them.

Chapter 125

ZUDOOOOON! DOOGOOOON! GOOBAAA!

A roar shakes the ground in the sea of trees over and over, creatures which inhabit it were desperate to escape from the center of the explosion while panicking.

[Oraa! I'll destroy this forest, get out of my way!]

Among the sounds that roared consistently, you could hear a scream.

It was Hajime's voice.

Incidentally, it is Hajime who bombs the sea of trees in the present while scattering the roaring sound. A vein on his forehead is showing while he uses "Orkan" (TL: His rocket launcher) in both hands and randomly shooting rockets and missiles.

[A, Ano, Hajime-san, anymore is …..]

[That's right, Hajime-kun, I'm sure that demon is already died, too and ….]

Without hiding his anger and frenzy, hundred of rockets and missiles were already shot by Hajime who keeps shooting cluster bombs with the "Cross Bits" from the sky in the forest, while Shia and Kaori fluster to restrain him.

However, ….

[Well, what?]

[Ie, it is nothing.]

[Un, I'm sorry to bother you.]

The two retracted their previous remarks immediately, because Hajime looked back with bloodshot eyes. (TL: He looked with blood lust.)

[Uu,…. scary. Shizushizu~ stop him.]

[Do not say the unreasonable, Suzu. I do not want to die yet. I think it's also reasonable why he is angry…..]

Shizuku gives out a sigh while she's calming Suzu who is clinging to her. She looks a little to the side. There was a crouching figure that was suppressing his own eyes with both hands while weeping.

[My eyes~, my eyes~, damn it, Nagumo! What are you doing so suddenly!]

A voice of agony is raised like a colonel from somewhere. It was the state of a person who got his eyes busted. Also, according to the words, Kouki's eyes were pierced by Hajime who used his fingers like scissors.

So why is Hajime so mad that he burned the forest and crushed Kouki's eyes?

After Hajime and the others fought a bee-shaped demon, they searched in the sea of trees for approximately 30 minutes. It was because of the encounter of a certain demon.

The demon was a monkey-type which attacked in crowds. The attacks flew from all angles freely by using the trees as a foothold and it was fairly troublesome. They were equipped with sword and clubs etc. Though it was unknown where they got these weapons.

Kouki, Shizuku and Suzu were fighting the monkey-demons and were played around with the tricky movements of them. Naturally, the monkey-demons were not Hajime's enemy, as one would expect.

Hajime, who wanted to join with Yue as fast as possible, let Kouki's group spar with the enemy to some degree.

Is it possible that the monkey-demon has some intelligence? The monkey-demons tried to take hostages. However, for Hajime, the thinking of that degree was too shallow. The monkey-demons that tried to take a hostage were all killed.

In those circumstances, the monkey-demons realized that they are

no match and tried to withdraw, however…… it accidentally made the wrong choice. It was the worst decision they could have made.

The main cause is the peculiar magic of the monkey-demons – “Mimicry”. It is the same one as the one from the rust-colored Slime which made Hajime angry.

They also got the information of Yue’s group and it is possible for them to disguise themselves as the companions which Hajime’s group was separated from. However, unlike the rust-colored Slime, the monkey-demons were more intelligent.

In other words, it is possible for them to mimic actions which would disturb the others. They were able to think of that.

As a result, they used “Mimicry”. It was to be used against the most dangerous enemy with the person they value the most. It was the lowest method to shake them up.

The monkey-demons dragged their brethren that used mimicry from the back of the bush. Its appearance was that of Yue. The figure that was dragged along was badly bruised with an unladylike appearance. Because it is based on the information of the teleported team, the appearance is exactly the same as the real one. (TL: Yep. They dug their own graves now.)

Of course, Hajime was able to see through the mimicry of the rust-colored Slime before, so he obviously knew it was not Yue.

Still, even with Yue’s nudity and miserable appearance you can’t tell the difference between the fake a real thing. When closing in the distance with his “Instant Movement” (TL: Shukichi, Flicker, whatever was used before.), Kouki’s eyes, which almost looked at the “Mimicry”-Yue, were crushed.

At this point, though Hajime has already started losing his temper, it was still enough for his reason to work. However, the monkey-demons, despite their high intelligence, couldn’t read the mood. They hit the “Mimicry”-Yue in front of Hajime with a smile. In addition the “Mimicry”-demon was imitating Yue’s voice. […..Hajime, help me]. It became a serious matter because of that.

At that moment, everyone heard it. “BUCHI” was heard and something snapped. (TL: sound effects, think of it as a snapping sound)

And now, you can see a part of the sea of trees surrounded by flames of hell.

The scorched field which was 500 meters in every direction was already complete. If you look here and there you can see carbonized humanoids. In the wreckage, bee- and ant-demons were also seen.

Because it was an instant air strike, there will probably be not a demon that escaped unless some demons can make a space metastasis.

After Hajime burned everything in the sea of trees, he advanced while ignoring everything else.

[Don’t give up you both, please! Who else can stop Hajime-san other than Shia and Kaori!”

[But….]

[No buts. Why do you give up here? It ends when you give up! Hora, do your best! Hang in there! Dekiru, Dekiru! (2xYou can do it!) A maiden in love is invincible!]

The words from Shizuku, reminiscent of some coach, inspired Shia and Kaori. To be frank, Shizuku was desperate to make the two to go to Hajime as he was hard to approach now.

Without knowing the real intentions of Shizuku, Shia and Kaori nod to each other and jumped at Hajime while he was reloading “Orkan”.

[Hajime-san! Leave it at this!]

[That’s right, Hajime-kun. You may drag Yue’s group into it!]

He desperately glares at Shia and Kaori clinging to him. Hajime seems to be dissatisfied and utters a twisted expressions and raised his voice with an [A?, a?]

The appearance was, no matter how you look at it, one of a person that wanted to free his head. However, as he sees the two going [Ne?, Ne?], he regained his composure after a while.

[Fuuuuuu～～～～～ I understand. For now I'll leave it at this. I feel refreshed after shooting.]

Hajome relaxed his shoulders and called back the "Cross Bits" and put them away along with "Orkan" into the "Treasure Box". Shia and Kaori regained their composure and let out a relieved breath.

[My bad, I made you take care of me.]

[Ie, I also got mad at their methods. It was inevitable.]

[Un, really, it was the worst….. In a sense it was expected from the great labyrinth.]

When Hajime regained his composure he showed a wry smile, the two shaked his head while shaking their own heads in denial.

When Hajime was talking in the background of a part of the sea of tree that almost turned into wasteland, Shizuku stepped forward while having a cramp on her cheek.

[Naguno-kun, if you calmed down could you do something about Kouki ….]

With the words [Ah, Now that you mention it.] Hajime turns around to Kouki.

Kouki was shedding tears while sobbing. His appearance was indescribably pitiful. Kaori immediately used recovery magic when it was suggested by a glance.

[Uu, This feeling. Is it recovery magic? Oh, i can see light] (TL: Yes he sees light, maybe he should also see a tunnel and go into it?)

Kouki is liberated from the pain in his eyes and is looking joyfully. In addition, when Hajime who is the ringleader of the pain is spotted, he lifted his eyes and raises a voice of protest.

Shizuku explains the situation and the other party shows a dissatisfied face.

[You see, Amanogawa, though i am at fault, i couldn't hold back. It was a critical moment of whether my lover's improper appearance was seen by another man. A mans …. eyes should be crushed, don't you agree?] (TL: Written Tennokawa, read as Amanogawa. This took me some time. Maybe i should write down their surnames or something….)

[What's with that "common sense?". Don't demand for an agreement in that tone. I almost became blind. In the first place, how can you tell the fake apart? Setting aside the real thing, when i think about how i tasted the pain because of the impostor…… I'm really angry.]

[You are foolish. Comparing your eyesight with Yue's half-nakedness….. is like putting a stone from the roadside with a high-class jewel on a scale.]

[My eyes aren't roadside stones!]

Kouki objects to Hajime and shows resentment towards him, while Hajime wards of his remark, he goes back to his search.

While not taking notice of the other party, Kouki begins to get even more irritated. Shizuku and Suzu try to soothe the situation. In a certain meaning, they were indebted to a familiar girl. It was an unpleasant common point.

At that time Hajime caught a presence with his "Sign perception". It will come at the speed of a small run.

Judging from the feeling of the sign, it seemed not to be a very powerful enemy. Therefore, Hajime looked back at the sea of trees with a doubtful look.

Shia also tilted her neck while gazing at the depths of the sea of trees.

Kouki also guessed that something approached them while looking

at the manner of the two. It was a creature that resembled a goblin, while it made a rustling sounds (TL: “gasagasa” sounds). It had a dark skin with an ugly and distorted face, it wore a rag and was about 140 centimeters tall.

The goblin made a “Guga”-sound when it saw Hajimes appearance. Thought it cried with a somewhat excited voice, it movements stopped as it was startled by its own voice. It stopped and looked at Hajime. Because of its face, murderous intent was released.

In fact, it looked that way to Kouki.

Because he was not playing an active part in battle a feeling of irritation was felt by him and he made a rush to the goblin. He closed in the distance in the blink of an eye with his Holy Sword in hand.

However, the goblin which life was almost nearly cut, for a moment, it’s glance turned to Kouki, but it still did not show any behavior of taking a defensive action.

In an instant, even if Kouki had some doubts about it, he swung his Holy Sword down, because you couldn’t be careless against demons in the great labyrinth.

At that moment, when the Holy Sword cladded in light, almost cut the strange goblin in two,

[What are you doing, idiot!] (TL: “Boke～”, not “baka”)

[Nnabbubera?]

Hajime who caught up in a moment, kicked Kouki away with a “Rolling Savate”. A strange scream was raised and Kouki disappeared in the interior of the sea of trees, as if being run over by a dump truck.

Despite the demon before them, Shizuku was dumbfounded by the action of an ally getting blown away by a “Rolling Savate”. She couldn’t overlook the action, lifted her eyes in anger and rushed over to Hajime.

[Wait a moment, Nagumo-kun! What was that for!? No matter how you look at it, it was unreasonable. Kouki merely wanted to defeat the demon!]

[That's right! Or rather, is Kouki-kun alright? We must go look for him immediately.]

Shizuku and Suzu turned a look of criticism to Hajime. Shia and Kaori also did not understand the reason for Hajime's action.

However, Hajime did not hear their voices, he only gazed at the goblin in front of him.

In her eyes, Kouki was kicked away by Hajime's "Rolling Savate" without reason and Shizuku put herself on guard against the existence of the goblin.

Kouki turned up from the back of the sea of trees while rubbing his arm. Apparently, he seemed to have been alright. However, it seemed he was going to jump at Hajime, while anger was omitting from his whole body.

[….. Nagumo. Why did you do that? Why did you get in my way? The situation is different from a while ago. Don't make excuses. To protect a demon, are you sane?]

[It's not a demon.]

[What did you say?]

Without reacting to Kouki's anger and ignoring his muttering, he kneeled in front the still standing goblin. All members were astonished by the action and are doubting him more and more. Only Shia noticed something and muttered [No way….].

Hajime, who is meeting it's eyes on the same level, says some words that startle the others.

[….. You are Yue, right?]

[Gugya!]

[[[….What the?]]]

While Kouki and the rest were standing there with open mouths, Hajime did not hesitate and took the goblins hand and muttered [Yue…]. The goblin, with a joyful cry, answered [Gugya.].

[Ehm, Hajime-san. I would never have imaged it would be Yue-san. Uhm, I can only see a demon….]

[I, I can only see a demon. Is it really Yue?]

Shia and Kaori raised a voice of doubt, while looking at the goblin in front of them. The goblin begins to cry out/complain to Hajime with [Gugya , Gugogo, Gyaagya], while looking at both of them. It shoulders dropped, because it is not able to talk with them.

However, Hajime is there. There is nothing impossible for the man who loves Yue.

[Yes?, Yes~ The next thing you knew is that your appearance changed after the transfer?]

[! Gugya ! …… Gugogo]

[Fumu, So it only changed the body……]

[Gugya …… Gyagya , Gugi]

[The equipment was also lost?….Oh, you came after the markings i have left?] (TL: Either equipment or accessories and “makingu” is written in “english”)

[Gugutsu …… Gogagoga]

[That’s right, Hajime is where the explosions come from? Well, you aren’t wrong……]

[……Gyuuu, Gogo]

[Is that so, you aren’t able to use magic…… But, you don’t feel any other changes.]

[Gigigi , Gagi]

[Well, it should be alright. It's probably one of the trials. It was an inevitable start of the game]

[…… Gyuuu]

[And Tio and Sakagami weren't with you. Perhaps the same happened with them as with Yue. I still don't know anything about the demons here….. Well, Don't worry about it Yue. I'll do something about it as always.]

A normal conversation has been established. (TL: "normal")

[[[[[……..]]]]]

Kouki and the rest were speechless. Hajime didn't try to hide the fact that he was happy to be reunited with his lover and smiled.

[This kind of thing. Let's try "Reproduction Magic" out.]

[[[[[No, no, no, no, wait, wait, wait, wait]]]]]

[Oh, What's wrong?]

Kouki and the rest tsukkomied in a beautiful harmony and looked at Hajime with puzzled expressions. Everyone wanted to tsukkomi Hajime even more. Or rather, they weren't able to hold out any longer.

[Isn't it strange? It is strange, right? How can you communicate? Like nothing is going on!]

[Nothing is going on…. I talk because it is Yue?]

[Suzu only hears "Gugya"! No other words! How do you understand it?]

[No, with feelings… it is possible to talk with eyes.]

[Which reminds me, you always stare at each other…….It really is useful at such a time….. How the two of you communicate breaks

through the center of the universe.]

[No, It's normal for a lover.]

[It's not normal? Obviously it is not normal…..What should we do. The "special" seat feels very far away.]

[Rather, Nagumo-kun. How did you notice it? Did you notice it before kicking me?]

[How did i, you know….. It's a simple story.]

Many tsukkomis were made and the others had tired expressions because Hajime answered with his common sense. At the end, Kouki uttered a question towards Hajime, who looked peacefully at the goblin shaped Yue,

[It's just that…. Her appearance may have changed, but i will never lose sight of Yue.]

[[[[[……Is that so?]]]]]

[…… Gugya]

With an expression that seemed like it was made of sugar, Yue (goblin Ver.) answered happily to Kouki's group.

[Putting that aside. Kaori, I leave the "Reproduction Magic" to you.]

[Ah, Un, I understand……. Well then, here we go Yue: "Absolute Imitation"!]

Kaori, whose eyes slightly regained sanity, was appealed by Hajime, turned towards Yue (goblin Ver.) and used "Reproduction Magic". Needless to say, reproduction magic is an age of gods magic and the effects are enormous. Hajime's group thought it would return her to her old appearance if they used it……..

[Gugya?]

[What? Why? One more time: "Absolute Imitation"!]

Yue's appearance did not change back.

It's like the "Reproduction Magic" isn't activating. A silver light pours down over Yue, but Kaori's magic is erased with a crunching sound. There is still no sigh of Yue's appearance turning back.

[Why……]

[Gugya……]

Kaori is stunned and Yue (goblin Ver.) dejectedly drops her shoulders. Even the other members had worried expressions. In the middle of it, Hajime folded his arms and hit the temple while brooding over the phenomenon.

Hajime wore a difficult expression. Yue (goblin Vers.), while gripping the bottom of his clothes, looked up to him with an uneasy expression. She though that it would be also difficult for her to turn someone back with "Reproduction Magic".

To such a Yue (goblin Ver.), Hajime returned from his deep thoughts and turned a vibrant smile towards her.

[Everything is alright, Yue. I've said it before, we fell into the trap, but a Game Over is impossible at the start. There must be a method to turn you back. I believe the "Reproduction Magic" doesn't work because the quality of the age of gods magic is different. A special method needs to be used. It is a self-evident truth, that the challengers of the trial have "Reproduction Magic". There would be no meaning to the trial otherwise. In any case, we will find the method to turn you back if we proceed further.]

[…… Gugya]

[Aa, don't worry about it. And, i forgot about this. Can you hold this?]

[…… Gigi?]

Hajime passed Yue (goblin Ver.) a pair of jewel earrings. Because she transformed and can't use magic, he guessed that she needs something and gave her an artifact —— "Telephatic Jewels". (TL:

actually stones, but they are earrings, so i choose “Jewels” instead of stones.)

[……Hajime?, Hajime? Can you hear me?]

Then, a lovely voice affected the space, the same way as Tio’s transformation into a dragon does. Hajime’s expression loosed up and he looked very happy while hearing a dear and nostalgic voice, even if it was only for a moment.

[Yeah, I can hear you, Yue. Your appearance changed….. but i’m glad you are alight.]

[……. Nn. I knew Hajime would notice it.]

[That’s natural. I’m the one who understands you the most.] (TL: Missed this line, i’m sorry~ Did not notice till now)

[…… Nn. But i was happy. I love you.]

[……Stop it. It’s embarrassing.]

[….. Fufu]

The air around them became sweet and pink, even though she was a goblin. Even if the appearance changed, they still create their own world. The eyes of the other members became like ones from dead fish.

[*Cough*! Isn’t it about time? Yue, I’m glad you are alright.]

[N…… Kaori, too]

[Yue-san……. Zettai, zee~~tai! We will turn you back! For that reason, you can rely on me!] (TL: “Zettai” means “absolutely” ,left it in japanese, because reasons…..)

[….. Shia, Thank you. I can’t fight now, so i’ll count on you.]

Shia and Kaori somehow regained their spirit and were able to exchange words with Yue.

[Yue-san, well, i'm sorry about a while ago. I didn't notice it was you…. I almost injured you.]

[….Don't worry. It was inevitable. And i believed i wouldn't get injured….]

[Eeh, is it about me?]

[…. Even from the hero (lol), Hajime would protect me.]

[…… Is that so.]

Yue's casual remark performs a clean hit. While withdrawing dejectedly, Kouki raised a dry laughter. Shizuku and Suzu try to encourage him.

[Well then, to change Yue back and find Tio and Sakagami we should push forward and quickly conquer the labyrinth.]

With Hajime's command the party proceeded to advance in the sea of trees once again.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

[…..Hajime-san, even I see it. That is Tio.]

[I also understand it. No matter how you look at it, that is Tio.]

[….Rather, it would be a serious matter if it wasn't Tio.]

[Unmistakable, That is Tio.]

Hajime and the others turn their eyes towards the filth they see.

After 30 minutes they joined up with Yue, they saw a group of goblins. The group assaulted one goblin with kicks and punches.

However, there was no intention of killing it and an atmosphere like bullying was there. The goblin seemed not to be injured while receiving an assault from the group.

If it was only that it was bullied because it was weak, it would be pretty natural……

[No matter how i see it….. It's in ecstasy…..]

[Even though it has the face of a goblin….. We could never broadcast that.]
[Nagumo….. You, to that kind of person…. I don't feel like i could win it's heart.]
[Stop it, Amanogawa. I feel bad because i allowed that transformation…..I can only give up…..]

The goblin was floating in ecstasy, while the others where muttering. The appearance was reminiscent of a certain pervert. Or precisely, there could only be one such person.

[Tio… You are….. It's too late already…. Let's give up though it is regrettable.]

When Hajime shaked his head in a sad expression he quietly turned his back. Yue and the rest followed him without any hesitation. Normally, Kouki would say [Never desert a nakama!], among other things, but now his gaze is wandering. (TL: As in ignoring it and it is "nakama", which can mean friend, companion, comrade..etc.)

[Gu? Gyagya!]

And, at that moment, the goblin noticed Hajime's group and raised its voice.

As a result, the assaulted goblin seemed to notice Hajime. It opened its eyes wide and rushed towards Hajime, despite receiving an assault earlier.

The goblin (Tio) was crawling in a high-speed on the ground, while the other goblins instinctively pulled away and backed away. In fact, while the goblins tormented and bullied it in high spirit, they felt [Huh? Somehow you are strange.] and now they were convinced about it.

[Gugyagyagya!!]

Meanwhile, the goblin (Tio) tried to jump with a rupa○dive into Hajime's chest. Though they can't understand goblin words, seen that, it was surely [Master～ This one longed to see you] or

something along those lines. (TL: Forgot to mention. It's probably "scuba dive", i don't understand the censor of the author here so i left it~)

Of course, Hajime responded and said,

[Don't come near me, you pervert!]

Mekyo!

And he used an uppercut with his artificial arm.

The goblin (Tio) made an artistic backflip with four and a half turns, but did make a sound like it should have been. She crashed.

[…..Dead?]

Yue (goblin Ver.) peeked into the bush where the body of the goblin (Tio) fell. It's tail was pierced by a tree branch.

Then, [Bikunbikun]! The body of the goblin (Tio) was twitching, while regaining consciousness. Though the body is that of a goblin, the endurance may be that of a dragon. Or, she became an even bigger pervert……

[GaGaGa! GoGo, Guge! Guga!]

The goblin (Tio) held her cheeks with both hands and screamed excited, while her body twisted around. And then, she began looking at Hajime with feverish eyes.

Instinctively, Hajime starts pulling out "Donner" and Shia desperately tries to calm him. Kaori handed over a "Telepathic Stone" over to the goblin (Tio).

[Uh-huh, a "Telepathic Stone"….. Do thou hear me, Master? This one met the beloved Master and the first words and actions were those of abuse.]

[Damn it. Even if the body changes, the toughness does not. It should just die already.]

[Tsu! Aah? Beloved Master. The lack of pardon, this one can't hold out. Mistress is useless without Master. Now, Master's beloved servant has returned. It's good how the mistress, who is reduced to ugliness, is attacked without restraint!]

Apparently, even if she changed into a goblin, she still felt the pleasure. It was already too late as Hajime said.

The goblins, while ignoring Tio who is lying on the ground saying [Do as you like! Burn or boil me!] and still twitching, were insta-killed by Hajime. And the search was resumed in silence.

The other members also did not seem to care about it and follow Hajime without turning their eyes.

[Ho, is this neglect play? Master can't be helped~ Ey, don't leave this one behind!? This one wants you to wait~ This one is still shaking because of the blow a while ago~]

Tio's voices echoes empty in the sea of trees. However, nobody stopped walking.

(TL: I used "it" rather than really translating it to english because i guess it makes more sense calling her an "object" rather than a "person".)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The huge branch bends and attacks irregularly like a whip. Leaves dance like a blade and scatter around. Tree nuts are shot like cannonballs. A sudden spear-like root dashes out from the ground like the sharp point of a sword. Each of these attacks are fatal.

It is very similar to the Tree-Demon Hajime once fought in the [Orcus great Labyrinth]. The demon is a so-called "Trent". But then, when Hajime compared this Trent with the one he fought, the size is extremely different. It was 30 meters high and 10 meters in diameter.

Kouki, Shizuku, Suzu and the ogre-like creature are confronting the huge Trent.

[Guraaa!]

Meanwhile, while raising a shout like a real Ogre, it is Ryutaro who attacks with his fist to intercept the branches that come in.

Along the way, an Ogre was discovered fighting other Ogres. However, while the fight went on martial arts were seen – To be frank, it made refined karatemovements. It was obvious that it was Ryutaro.

Ryutaro might have been dead if they found him later as his status has fallen as Yue's and Tio's did. To go that far without running away, a tsukkomi was made about his muscle-brain.

And, Ryutaro finally joined with them as the last member. They reached the place with the gigantic tree which was obviously on a different size compared with the surrounding ones…… The gigantic tree said [Defeat me if you want to go further!] and began to rage as it said it.

At the present time, Kouki's group which did not show any results till now said [We will defeat this guy!] and rushed out. Hajime's group didn't care and started to spectate the fight. By the way, Kaori is participating as a healer.

[Gwuuuu. The attack is heavy.]

A branch with the thickness of a log approaches, while cutting through the wind, and is received by Kouki with his Holy Sword. However, a groan leaked from the space of gritted teeth, while reminding how excessive the weight of the attack was.

Shizuku is busy with shuriken like leaves, which fly like throwing knifes. Suzu puts up a powerful barrier to somehow intercept the attack and Kouki desperately decides to use the opening to attack.

[Kuu, No good. Because Kaori is here, we do not have to worry about not being able to continue……]

The black katana "Tsumehirameki" was fully taken advantage of. Shizuku gridded her teeth while cutting branches and leaves one by one. (TL: Not sure 爪閃, something like claw flash/lighting)

Hajime's words before entering the great labyrinth, sank into the bodies of Shizuku's group. Without Hajime they would have been annihilated already. The confidence they gained in the [Orcus great Labyrinth] was crushed into pieces.

After worrying a little, Shizuku shouted towards Kouki.

[Kouki! Use "Supreme Destruction"!] (TL: 神威 not too sure, used chapter 122 as a reference)

[No, it's not good. The chant is too long!]

[It's alright! We will defend you without fail! Believe in us!]

Kouki was troubled what he should do about Shizuku's suggestion.

It was obvious that the Trent before them was stronger than the demons of the woman of the Majin-tribe (TL: Demon-tribe). The attacks only come one by one, however the fight is only somewhat manageable with Kaori's backup. They could lose their lives if they lose concentration even once. It would take more than an average nerve to expose oneself defenseless in such a time.

However, it was certain that without an overwhelming attack they can't reach the Trent. At this rate, they wouldn't be able to defeat it.

In addition……

Kouki recalls the time when Hajime met Yue again. A mutual trust that did not change, even when the appearance changed. Hajime saw the true nature of his lover in an instant and Yue did not show any unrest while she was almost killed by Kouki. Honestly, it would be a lie so say that he did not envy such a relationship.

Therefore, Kouki was determined. We have a relationship of mutual trust. It was absolutely not to prove that they will not lose to Hajime.

[I understand. I leave my back to you!]

[Yes, leave it to us. Ryutaro, Suzu! Let's gather up!]

[Roger!]

[Aye yo!]

Kouki did not move an inch while raising his Holy Sword over his head. Only his mouth moved while chanting. That state may be called defenseless, because his whole consciousness was poured into the chant of “Might of Heaven”.

The Trent was sure not to miss that chance. The tree branches from right and left, a leaf blade which approached like a tornado from above, a shell of nuts from the front and the root of a tree attacks from the ground.

[This is sacred ground, the enemy of god will not be allowed to pass! “Absolute Virtue!”] (TL: “聖絶” not sure about this skill, also “YOU SHALL NOT PASS!” would also work, but i did not want to use a sketchy line～)

Suzu foresaw an attack and put up a barrier. Up till now her barriers have saved the party. The barrier withstood somehow the first barrage of attacks with small cracks.

[Tsuuuuu!]

Because of the consecutive attacks of the Trent, the barrier couldn’t hold out and breaks. Suzu’s groan resounds loudly, while Shizuku and Ryutaro (Ogre Ver.) are attacking in despair.

[Tsuuuaaa!]

[Oooooh!]

They were badly bruised in an instant because of the offensive waves of attacks. They intercept every attack with their skills, while screaming and roaring. Though two people get damaged and blood spilled out, they didn’t let any attack pass to the back.

[“Kaiten!”] (TL: Changing the world or turning the tide. Japanese sounds a bit better.)

With only one world echoing on the battlefield, Suzu’s wounds are

healed in an instant by Kaori's magic.

Though "Kaiten" is a recovery magic for multiple targets, it's effects are already above the advanced level. Most wounds are healed in no time. After getting Nointo's body, Kaori was inspired to create new healing magic. It was possible to heal with "Regeneration Magic", however the magic consumption from the age of gods magic is larger than normal magic.

Suzu puts up a barrier again and earns a few seconds, however it gets destroyed again. Shizuku and Ryutaro put their lives on the line again. Kaori immediately heals their damaged bodies and Suzu puts up another barrier. They repeat this three times.

Finally, from Kouki's body, a huge amount of magic gushes out and covers his Holy Sword. The Holy Sword is cladded in light like the sun and Kouki takes a deep breath.

And,

[————Everyone! Here i go! "Supreme Destruction" !!]

He unleashes his trump card, his strongest magic. A huge torrent of light strikes the ground and flies forward. A leaf blade is blown off, the tree branch gets eliminated, the bombardment of the nuts is swallowed and the Trent is hit directly.

The roaring sounds and light explode, while the surroundings are dyed white.

[I did it!]

Kouki gives a smile of satisfaction and shouts. Hajime watches in the back, while stuffing a small cake into his mouth, and mutters [Aah, he raised the flag…..].

The flag was certainly raised.

The light and dust clears up……and the Trent is unhurt.

[It's a lie, right……]

Kouki is stunned and makes a lifeless voice. It wasn't only Kouki. Shizuku's group also were shocked because Kouki's last resort was useless.

The Trent lets out murderous intent towards Kouki's group and starts attacking in waves again.

Chapter 126

“Supreme Destruction” ——— Is a power like the name says. A power worthy as a hero’s trump card, a magic of the highest grade. Kouki came as a beginner into this world, leveled up, gained experience and was able to slaughter all enemies with his special technique.

However, the Trent emerged unscathed from the dust.

[Impossible…..]

Kouki was unable to move because of that fact. Shizuku realized something and raises her voice.

[Kouki! Look at that! It wasn’t a direct hit!]

[Eh?]

When Kouki looked into the same direction as Shizuku, he saw a large amount of trees scattered around, broken into small fragments. Apparently, Kouki’s “Supreme Destruction” did not hit the Trent directly. It was prevented by a large amount of trees in the front.

Though there shouldn’t be any trees there? Where on earth did such a great amount appear from? The questions from Kouki’s group were answered by the Trent.

At that time, the Pseudo-Trent gave out a pale light. A large number of trees spread out from the base and grew in a very great force.

[…… Unique Magic.]

Suzu muttered. That opinion was right. It was the unique magic of the Trent of the “Sea of Trees”. It was freely able to create a large amount of trees and manipulate them freely.

[This, this is bad! This is sacred ground, the enemy of god will not be allowed to pass! “Absolute Virtue!”]

Suzu was momentarily dumbfounded, but was able to invoke “Absolute Virtue” immediately. Attacks poured in from all directions, while a shining barrier was deployed with Suzu’s group inside.

The branches which had a sharpened point like a spear gave an intense shock to the barrier one after another.

Not only the Trent, but also the surrounding trees also produced a similar attack. It seemed they wold get crushed to death by the almost oppressive amount of resources.

The “Absolute Virtue” won’t be able to hold out without a chant. It already cracked here and there, it did not seem to hold out for another several seconds. And, when Suzu’s barrier gets broken, will the others hold out till she deploys it again?…..Only an optimist would judge it doable.

[No good….anymore….]

Suzu realizes by the magic consumption, that the barrier will soon break and informs the others.

Kouki looks at Suzu. [Then i have to use “Limit Break” to survive!] He made his resolve. There is no choice but to accept that they need to use two of their trump cards directly at the first stage after entering a great labyrinth.

However, after guessing Kouki’s intentions, assistance came from the rear.

[“Forever Engraved”]

The reproduction magic “Forever Engraved”, which Kaori used – regardless of the substance of the object – can regenerate everything to the state one second ago every one second it is used.

Suzu’s “Absolute Virtue” which seemed to break at any moment, gets surrounded by a silver light. After one beat, the barrier recovered to its dignified appearance af if nothing happened. Even after the attacks of the Trents , it returns to its original state. “Absolute Virtue” is repaired every second.

[Wow, Kao-rin! Thank you!]

Suzu, while maintaining the barrier, looks back and thanks Kaori. Kouki and the others slighty relax their bodies because they got of the predicament and look to the back.

There, the Trents surrounded Hajime's group like it did to Kouki's. Hajime and the others did not seem to care about it.

Four "Cross Bitts" were arranged by Hajime in the surroundings and a triangular pyramid was spread as a barrier. (TL: Like this: http://www.math-salamanders.com/images/lgs-3d-shape-triangular-based-pyramid.gif) The space interception type produce a spatial magic "Four-Point Barrier".

"Reproduction Magic" isn't even used and still there are no signs that the barrier gets shaken. It seems to be a totally impregnable castle wall, without allowing any attack to come near.

[That seems to be the limit. I thought they would hold out longer…..]

Hajime murmured while looking down at Kouku who had a complicated look.

[U～n, Wouldn't they be fine if the hero-san uses his "Limit Break"?]

[I wonder. Well, if he goes over his limit maybe…… However, what will happen after he weakens after that? It is unlikely that he can recover from the fatigue of his "Limit Break" with healing magic.]

[…..It may be possible with Reproduction Magic.]

[I don't want to use it as the magic consumption is big. It's still too early for that.]

[Fumu. Well then, we should clear up here before the hero-boy uses it.]

Hajime was wondering if Kouki and the others would be acknowledged to have cleared the great labyrinth. Kouki and the

others should obtain the age of gods magic , because [If Nointos appear in a great amount we could use the “throw the heroes at them”-strategy.]

So, they should raise their military strength in the great labyrinth [Appeal with: “We should fight hard!”] Or so he wished…….

Because it is unknown what may happen beyond this point, it’s not preferable to use age of gods magic in succession because of its magic consumption. Even though they have magic stones stocked up, they don’t know when Yue and Tio can turn back and are able to fight.

[Master, this one thinks you should not worry too much about the outcome of the battle.]

[Yes? What do you mean? Is it about the concept of the great labyrinth?]

The goblin (Tio) advises Hajime who thinks deeply about the current situation. Despite her being a pervert, her words and knowledge are very thoughtful. Though, she is still a helpless pervert.

[Yes. The concept is probably “testing the bonds”.]

[Bond….. Speaking of it, the word was also on the stone tablet at the entrance.]

[That’s right. Not only to test the bonds with the sub-humans, but also to test the bonds when capturing the labyrinth. Is it not so? See through the imitations, accept the companions which changed. It is truly testing the “deep woven bonds”.]

[I see….. If there is a goal after clearing this trial you could call this a “guidepost”. If it’s that way, then there might be no problem if I clean up the battle. Amanokawa and the others only need to get over the “testing the bonds something” what comes after this.]

[That’s right. Well, it is only a guess in the end.]

It is still a very reliable guess.

With understanding that, Hajime makes his decision and lets out a sigh. Even though he strengthened Kouki and other with the artifacts greatly, the great labyrinth reads the memory after the capture and there is a possibility it won't accept them if he makes them too strong and so he waited.

Hajime glanced at the Goblin (Tio) and lets out another sigh. Tio occasionally gives sharp consideration and makes suggestive advice because she lived far longer than him. He's reminiscent that the race is supposed to be noble and respectful.

Originally she is thoughtful and considerate and has the perfect nature of the Dragon-Race which Yue longed for. Every man would be captured by her beauty as she's a very attractive lady.

Even though she's already a pervert…..

[Really, is it my fault?] Hajime worried in his mind. And he looks at the Goblin (Tio) and regretted it.

[Mu? Master's look of pity at this one….haa, haa, this is in itself….. already…Mistress is no good without Master.]

[Haa~]

Tios wriggling with her Goblin body gave out unpleasant feelings.

Hajime looks at the Trent which attacks without restraint but still can't tear Suzu's "Absolute Virtue" and Hajime's "4-Point-Barrier". In addition it still generates more trees. The surrounding view was already filled with trees.

[Taniguchi. I'll burn everything now. Don't undo the barrier if you don't want to die.]

[Eh?]

Hajime warns Suzu before unleashing an attack while she is defending from attacks from all directions.

Suzu suddenly answers dumbfounded with a great voice. Kouki and the other turn dubious expressions towards Suzu. The expressions

will soon turn into dumbfounded ones.

Outside of the barrier, Hajime throws a moonlike-ring (Getsurin) into the air and takes out a remote control with an induction stone out of the “Treasure Box”. With the power of “Wind Claw” and “Sign Perception” the surrounding trees were easily dissected and thrown into the air. (TL: Actually the author has written “sky”, but i choose to change it to “air”. Makes somehow more sense. I’ll use “Getsurin” from now on, just needed to explain what it is.)

The numbers exceeded 20. It’s impossible to make them get battle mobility, but it’s easy to change the tide.

And in the next moment, black liquid scatters around the Trent like raid because of the Getsurin. The black liquid scattered around is a tar that burns at 3.000°C which even melts Fullum ore.

Hajime transfers a large amount of tar stored in the “Treasure Box” by using the gate function of Getsurin.

While trying to figure out what Hajime was doing, Shia and the other let out a [Uwaa～] and their eyes turned towards Hajime.

Certainly, it was effective to deal with the Trent and all the trees it quickly generated……..

While the girls gazed at Hajime, he threw a small live coal towards Getsurin.

In that moment,

Gooooooooo !! (TL: Not sure how to translate sound effects ゴォオオオオオオ！！)

Everything in sight was dyed instantly in flaming red.

The Trents, which didn’t even worry when the tar was released, are now surrounded by a prison of flames of 3,000°C and instantaneously burned by it. Though they don’t have vocal cords, it seems they are screaming in agony.

The spectacle may be mistaken for hell which has manifested on

this world. Now, every object outside of the barrier is certainly carbonized……No, even cinders might not remain.

The tar does not burn for long, but the heat is terrific. The hellfire produced by Hajime extinguished naturally after 15 minutes. However, because the Trents ran wild, it even spread to normal trees, so Kaori managed somehow to extinguish the flames with water magic.

[We joined up with Yue and the other already, so i had no problems burning everything down….]

[Hajime-kun…. Do you even think before destroying everything?]

[Where Hajime-san is, there is also destruction…. Father and the others might think of two new names if they see it.]

[……Hajime not restraining himself….Wonderful.]

[This one agrees, Yue. Merciless Master…. This one gets wet.]

Hajime releases the “4-Point-Barrier” and walks toward Kouki and the others who have somewhat tired expressions, while Kaori turns to Hajime looking troubled. The members other than Kaori are saying [That’s very Hajime-like.] and [As expected from Hajime.]. With satisfaction on her face she nods in agreement.

[Nagumo-kun….A little while ago…. No, it’s nothing. A rocket launcher has already been fired at random and cluster bombs were scattered around. This much is already normal for him. Therefore, get a grip, myself……]

Kouki and the others made a complicated look, as if they are really safe. At the same time, Kouki glanced towards Hajime and bits his lips tightly.

Kouki wasn’t able to knock it down even with his last resort and Hajime did it as if it was a side-job. Even if he was persuaded to come here to obtain the age of gods magic, will he really obtain it while being helped……? Such uneasiness was welling up in his mind.

Kouki averts his glance from Hajime and tries to shake off his negative thoughts and looked back in panic as he heard “Mekimeki”-sounds from behind.

[Did it regenerate?]

Like Kouki said, a big tree grew rapidly from the carbonized ground while rumbling the earth.The Trent grew in no time. Exactly how a “Regeneration” would feel like.

Kouki and the others took a stance, however the regenerated Trent showed no signs of attacking. After standing for a while it started to make a cave. The trunk tears open, the left and right side crack and an open space in the middle is created.

[I thought it was a middle-boss, but it was also the door which goes to the next stage.]

Hajime advanced towards the cave without nodding or hesitating as he was convinced. Yue and the others follow him. Kouki and the others who assumed a stance, followed him in a hurry.

The inside of the cave was without any special characteristics. However, after everybody entered it, the entrance in the cave shut them in and their feet began to shine at the same time.

[Another teleportation…..]

It was the same magic as the one at the entrance of the great Tree. Hajime strongly drew the Goblin (Yue) and the Goblin (Tio) towards him while muttering.

Because those two can’t fight right now, even a trivial thing would be fatal. He wants to do something, even if it’s a trifle thing. After coming this far, it’s impossible to lose these two.

[…..Hajime.]

[Ma, Master…. Uu, this one is troubled by your gentleness.]

Were Hajime’s worries transmitted to them? It looked more like the two goblins were really happy, rather than being scared of the

transportation. Tio showed a very uncommon embarrassed (dere) side.

Shia and Kaori jumped towards Hajime with the words [Ah, me too~] and wanted to hug him……..

However, the attempt was one step too slow. As for Hajime's view, the scene where two people stretched out a hand was painted out with enormous light at the end.

Chapter 127

Chrip, Chirp, Chirp

The singing of birds and sunlight invading in the space of the curtain informs that morning has come. Responding to the sound, the master of the room covers his head in his futon (TL: Japanese bed) and it turns into an impregnable fortress.

And in the next moment a click resounds plainly and the devil raised a roar. (TL: Alarm clock = devil. I understand, same for me~ Die alarm clocks. Every one of them should be killed by a hero.)

Jiriririririri !! (TL: Strange alarm. Well…. Could be worse…..)

A noise destroys the silence of the morning in the room [Wake up, boke!]

[Uuu……]

The master of the room tries to protect himself from the devil in his fortress, but it's impossible to do that forever. He extended his arm from the futon and in an instant "Banban"! The palm looks for the devil and hits it.

The head of the devil is caught at the third time by the arm because of the experience of the devil subjugation for 10 years and he succeeded in silencing the screaming.

However, the act that has continued on countless occasions wasn't hard work at all. The arm of the master of the room dropped in exhaustion and was withdrawn straight into the fortress again. And he stopped moving after that.

Immediately after that,

[Hajime~ Wake uuuuup!! Don't go back to sleep ! Wake up already~!]

A familiar voice is heard from downstairs —— The voice of a mother is demanding to wake up. The master of the room, Hajime,

has certainly heard the voice in his half consciousness. [Resistance to the bitter end!] The defence of the fortress is gets even stronger after saying that.

[No good after all~. Mou, now really, every morning. Sorry~ Can i count on you again?]

[――] (TL: Really. They were that way. I only changed the brackets. Don't look at me that way. I'll get aroused.)

The voice of the mother is heard again from downstairs. It reached Hajime's ears because it was spoken loud on purpose so that Hajime hears it even if it was on the other side of the door.

Not thinking of the voice of the mother which has given up, already knowing who she's talking with and what will happen, Hajime still had no intention to get up obediently.

After all, every morning is a happy morning for Hajime……

A "konkon"-knocking sound echoes.

However, because there is no reaction, the person understood the reason for it and opened the door immediately. The person calls out to the dumpling gently while getting closer to the bed with small steps.

[…….. Wake up, Hajime.]

[……]

Still, no reaction. A little more, he wants to hear voice more till he fully awakes.

[……Hajime, wake up. If you don't wake up……]

[……..]

She gently uses her hand shaking him. A small hand can be seen over the futon and Hajime's cheeks begin to soften.

[….I'll attack you. Sexually.]

[Un, I'll wake up, so will you stop saying such a vivid thing in the morning?]

He wakes up immediately after feeling chills down his spine! And the futon was pushed aside. (TL: I don't really understand why the author used an "!" here. I let it inside, but it feels strange.)

[Morning, Yue.]

[……N. Morning, Hajime.]

Hajime smiled for a while with his dear lover and savored the first happiness of the day.

Hajime is walking to school while suppressing a yawn. Yue is besides him and looks upwards towards him. Such a gesture can only be called cute….. Hajime is looking at Yue while they are going besides each other and is busy restraining himself.

Yue is wearing a blazer from Hajimes school. Her short skirt is fluttering gently while she goes backwards, turns her head towards Hajime and speaks to him.

[……..Again, staying up late?]

[Un, I was doing the work father asked me to. It was morning before i noticed.]

[……It's good to be enthusiastic, but take care of yourself. Please don't overwork yourself.]

[Un, I'll be careful.]

Hajime and Yue are having a gentle conversation. They create a sweet atmosphere between them. A long time passed since Yue became Hajimes lover, however, the passion between them has not declined at all. For Yue to be near Hajime, the homestay was forced into Hajimes house and the transfer procedure to his school was finished very quickly.

Suddenly, the pretty girl with blonde hair became Hajime's lover and it became a fuss at the beginning. After all, Hajime is a genuine

Otaku that spends most of his time helping his father who manages a game company. It's unimaginable why Hajime got such a beautiful lover.

His mother doubted it and panicked because she thought it was because of hypnotism and his father thought he had the ability to make delusions real. Even at school, after it was revealed that Yue was Hajime's lover, it became the hottest topic of the whole school.

Afterwards, it is needless to say that the boys were envious of Hajime. Yue is like Yue is, she was waging war with several girls for some reason. (TL: Wait what? Why?)

Such things continued for several months. It stopped only recently and their school life calmed down. Thus, because they overcame the storm, they can now leisurely stroll to school together.

Hajime, while looking at Yue and her blonde hair which reflects the light and shines brightly, tried to recall how they have met.

By chance, he helped Yue who was caught by some thugs and in a desperate fight he somehow manage to defeat one and rescued her. His face becomes hot when he recalls that she kissed his neck as gratitude towards him. After that they became lovers very fast. (TL: Author used "rapidly", but that sounds somewhat strange.)

(However, even thought i am an Otaku i managed to beat them. Humans can somehow manage it when they are desperate.)

Hajime smiles involuntarily, remembers his act of rashness, but somehow feels uneasy.

(……Huh? Where did i meat Yue again? Why was I at such a place? Huh?)

It's obvious that Yue is a foreigner and became a homestay student. That means he should have met her in a foreign country. Hajime himself remembers that he met Yue in a foreign country.

However, where was that actually? He wasn't sure and his thoughts were hazy. As soon as he noticed that, those doubts came battered like being spilled from a bookshelf in his memory. The uneasiness

and doubts swelled up in Hajime one after another.

[….Hajime!]

[Uwa, what happened? Why did you shout out so suddenly. You surprised me.]

Yue normally never talks in such a loud voice while commuting to school. Hajime's hearth almost jumped and he came back to reality from his whirlpool of thoughts.

After that, Hajime looks at Yue who has a somewhat sulky expression.

[…..Because you ignored me many times when i called you.]

[What? Really? Sorry! I was thinking for a moment…….]

Yue turns around suddenly in a bad mood. She was sulking and Hajime's eyebrows turned into the letter of eight. (TL: "八 ") At that time, Hajime's doubts disappeared completely.

Yue shows a mischievous smile and Hajime repeatedly apologizes. She did not sulk at all, she only wanted Hajime to care about her. She was happy that her plan succeeded.

To such a Yue, Hajime lowers his eyebrows to the character of eight again [Can't do anything about this girlfriend] and he wears a troubled look on his face with a smile. However, he wasn't really troubled like his expression looked like. He was rather happy.

While doing a brilliant turn towards Hajime again, Yue lines up next to Hajime and says something with a small voice.

[…….Doze off. In happiness. Look only at me.]

That voice did not reach Hajime. While Hajime looked at Yue who snuggled up to him, his eyes gently softened.

When Hajime arrived at the school and was changing his shoes at the shoe cabinet, a soft impact is transmitted to his back. It was

certain that someone bumped into him and it was a happy feeling for any man. (TL: Come on! Oppai attack! The attack was very effective!)

[Hajime-san~! Yue-san~! Good morning!]

[n……. Good morning, Shia.]

[Uwa, Shia-san ! Let me go! I always tell you to stop hugging me when you greet me.] (TL: Wtf Hajime? Shia-san? Is your head alright? I guess not….)

[To take away my happiness….. This is cruel! At this point you should take responsibility and marry me!]

[You skipped some steps! Anyway, let go! Highlight is disappearing from Yue's pupils. She stares without blinking!] (TL: Author has written "highlight" so I left it. This does sound strange in english. Think of her eyes looking dead or something.)

As for Hajime, he tries to tear of Shia from his back while not being too happy about the feeling on his back.

Shia is also a foreigner like Yue and came to japan to study abroad. Also by chance, he helped her and her family who were attacked by a thug and she repeats to show gratitude with repeating extreme physical contact.

The trademark headband (□□□□□□) she's wearing is shining in a blue color in addition to her white hair and her innocent smile she is popular regardless of gender and she also has a fan club.

Honestly, I am happy that such a girl is showing me goodwill, even though i am confused. It isn't so that i don't think of what would have happened if i had not met Yue earlier than her.

However, there is no meaning in thinking about such IFs. With Yue as the best lover, Shia's aggressiveness is becoming a headache for Hajime.

Though Shia's goodwill which she turn to Hajime with her excessive

physical contact makes Yue have a bad mood, they get along well and they may be called best friends.

That way, they aren't able to be unkind to each other, and somehow they are stuck in a dilemma. Even though Yue wants to monopolize Hajime, she shows no signs to ditch Shia, her best friend. To Hajime is their relationship mysterious.

(Good grief, saving two girls from delinquents and receiving their goodwill. Which Gal-game is this? Moreover, a harem-route to be OK is realistically impossible. …… What? Come to think of it, was Shia always wearing such a headband? Somehow, more, like, a different feeling…….)

While Hajime watched Shia's headband and searching his memory, suddenly both his arm were wrapped in a happy feeling.

While pressing such heinous fruits (deadly weapons) against Hajime while talking, they pulled him towards the classroom. (TL: No joke intended. He really has written "brutal/fiendish/heinous/evil fruits" 凶悪な果実)

[Why do you make such a difficult face in the morning? If we don't go to class soon the first bell will ring.]

[n….The teacher will scold us.]

Warm sunlight is entering from the window and raises the temperature gradually, however because of two people it becomes midwinter in the blink of an eye.

Hajime is paying attention to not spend too much time with those two at school. From the mouths of those two the words "classroom", "first bell" and "teacher" escaped. So he had no choice and felt a discomfort in his chest.

When he entered the classroom, in that moment, the looks of envy and jealousy were emitted from the men and stick all to Hajime. Because of Yue's and Shia's aid he doesn't get chased directly, their piercing gazes still hurt……..

(N? What is it? How to call this….. nostalgic? Huh, why, Why do i

feel that way?)

Hajime couldn't understand his own feeling and sat down on his seat while twisting his neck and being even more confused.

Immediatly after that, one girl from the class approaches Hajime.

[Hajime-kun, Good Morning. You came at the last-minute today. You should come earlier.]

[……]

The girl — Shirasaki Kaori — who greeted him is not inferior to Yue or Shia even if you compare them. She was the School Madonna before Yue and Shia came. Also, she is also a girl who favors Hajime for some reason.

She has called out to Hajime often already before, but he did not think it was because she had courtesy for him. However, because Yue named herself as Hajimes lover, Kaori started to make her goodwill shown towards Hajime as she knew she had feelings for him. Because of that it was impossible to run away from misunderstandings.

Kaori came closer to Hajime with "patapata" steps which sounded happy and Hajime showed a troubled smile……This time however, because Hajime was caught in his thoughts he didn't answer Kaori.

(That line…..somewhere….Damn it, What is it? Why did i think of that as "nostalgic"? Though it is the usual…. Today is somewhat strange.)

[Hajime-kun…. Why do you ignore me? Well… Have I made you angry somehow?]

When hearing the trembling voice, Hajime looks up and sees Kaori with a tearful expression. Hajime noticed that he had been ignoring Kaori's greeting and answered in a hurry.

[No, sorry. That's not it. I was thinking for a moment. I'm really sorry. Morning, Shirasaki-san.]

[Oh, i'm glad~ . Un, Morning Hajime-kun. And don't i always tell you i want you to call me "Kaori"?]

Kaori puffs out her cheecks and shows her dissatisfaction. Because of such a lovely gesture, all the young men that looked at Hajime were almost all shot. (TL: Cuteness overload.)

[No, Shirasaki-san. That's a bit….]

[It's Kaori. Call me that?]

[No, that's…..]

[Ka-o-ri!]

[That, err, Ka, Kao…..]

Muu! Hajime is overwhelmed by Kaori as she wants him to call her by her given name. And when he was almost persuaded to do so,

[…….Don't trouble Hajime.]

The savior appeared. It was Yue.

Yue protected Hajime and cut in between Hajime and Kaori with an imposed stance.

[Muu, you came out, Yue. For the time being, Morning.]

[…..n, for now, Morning. Kaori.]

While Yue and Kaori greet each other, an icy enviroment between them is created. They officially recognize each other as rivals in school.

Warm sunlight enters from the window and it becomes warmer, however between those two, it becomes midwinter suddenly. "Cold War" —— The battle over Hajime between Yue and Kaori is known not only by the students, but also by the teachers.

Though those two stare at each other for a while, there is no malicious feeling there. In spite of the war of love between them,

those two, in a dignified manner, collide with each other openly.

For Hajime it wasn't too strange, rather than rivals, they were like close friends which did not hate each other, but had a quarrel like friends.

Meanwhile the bell rang, and the head teacher entered the classroom. Yue and Kaori who had been exchanging glances returned to their seats quickly.

In the first period was the english class from Tio-sensei. A beauty that for some reason likes Hajime. She is an erotic female teacher that always without exception sexually harasses Hajime……

Immediately make some disciplinary dismissals! While thinking that, he glares at her while neglecting the harassment and she stops immediately her sexual harassment. For some reason, she tries to hide her expression which is red and her shoulders shake…….. Hajime got depressed because he thought she was scared of his face. (TL: Tio stays Tio, wherever she is….)

After school, Hajime and Yue were walking besides each other towards a certain place. Shia, Kaori and for some reason Tio-sensei wanted to come with them, but Yue cut them down with a single strike of a sword. (Of course, only in a mental meaning.) Because they were temporarily immobilized, only those two were able to go.

The place at which they arrived at while enjoying an innocent conversation was a kindergarten.

At that place, Myuu, the daughter of Remia which was mothers friend (TL: Speaks of Hajime's mother probably) was there and they came for her because Remia was busy. And this picking-up, until Remia comes back, became the daily life of Hajime's family which continues since long ago.

[Aa Pa…… Onii-chan! Yue-neechan!] (TL: She almost said almost "papa". I want to take her home. Onii-chan = brother, Neechan = sister, most will know. Just in case)

Hajime and Yue went through the front gate of the of the

kindergarten and Myuu came running to them with small steps. She was smiling with her whole face. Unconsciously, Hajime and Yue had a warm and fluffy feeling. The two catch Myuu which rushed to them and embraced her with a “gyu”.

[Myuu, it’s no good to dive/jump into us. It’s dangerous you know? Also, did you just try to call me “Papa”? Really, don’t do that.]

[……..I wouldn’t mind being called “Mama”.]

Hajime almost break out in cold sweat because of how Myuu wanted to call him.

Myuu called Hajime “Papa” before and it became a hassle as other parents also were there. Remia was a widow, Myuu didn’t know her father and they thought that the gentle older man, Hajime, was her father.

However, calling Hajime, an active high school student, “Papa”…… Naturally, some rumors were spread.

Moreover, Yue is also a foreigner the same as Myuu is. It should be understood what the other parents were imagining. Namely, they thought she got pregnant somewhere between primary school and middle school!

When Yue heard about the misunderstanding, the misunderstanding escalated further as she only blushed without denying it. Yue imagined making a child with Hajime, but the timing for that was just too bad.

In one way or another, the teachers of the kindergarten solved the misunderstandings. On a later date, Remia has written a letter so that the misunderstanding doesn’t spread further so that it disappears from Hajime’s town. Honestly, he almost was breaking out in cold sweat.

Moreover Remia is a widow and it was possible he would aim for her next time? A lady-killer with a docile face! And most turned cautious eyes towards him. Recently, he has given up on that already. Still, more or less, he doesn’t let her call him papa.

They walk with Myuu between them while holding hands home. From time to time, they swing Myuu forth and back like on a swing while chatting. If you look from the side, it completely looks like a family.

[……..Myuu, what were you doing today?]

[Ehm, today…….] (TL: E to ne, kyou wa…… KAWAI, damn it! Yes, I like Myuu. Problems with that? Long live cute things!)

Myuu answers Yue what she was doing today. While seeing such a Myuu, Yue looks at her very gently. It is full of love and warmth overflows. Somehow, Hajime has been fascinated by such a divine Yue.

It takes a while till a ill-humored voice reaches Hajime.

[Mou, pap—- Onii-chan! Do you hear what Myuu is talking about?]

[Eh? Aah, sorry, sorry. I was spacing out for a bit.]

Hajime smiles with a wry smile while apologizing to Myuu which is angry and lifts her arm. And to please her, Hajime starts to cuddle with her.

Though Myuu restores her mood very fast as she was held, she doesn't want to let go and tries very hard to still pretend to be angry at him. It was obvious for Hajime, but he pretended not to notice it and Hajime was still soothing Myuu.

At that time, a faint quarrel finally reached their ears. A woman's voice and of some men. Judging by the voice, the female seems to be in a pinch. Hajime and Yue look at each other and peek into the alley where the voice was heard.

[What a template is this….] (TL: Probably meant stereotype, but has written template.)

[…….Enemy of women, won't be forgiven.]

Like you can imagine it, some men were trying to forcefully pick-up a girl.

Hajime twisted his head while holding Myuu and thinking what to do. The enemy's strength wasn't very big. Judging from their postures, they only seemed like small punks. It wouldn't be a big deal, even if they were armed.

Their potential was analyzed (□□□□□□□□□) and Yue on his side plunged forward to the punks.

They have turned towards Yue as they have realized that she approaches them and were momentarily stunned by her pretty face and were smiling, however immediately they smiles became vulgar. Their eyes were seeing new prey.

Because of their glances, Hajime got angry. However, before he was able to able to something, Yue got in between the pick-up guys in a moment. In addition, in only a moment, their joints made a "bekibaki" (breaking) sound and Yue got control of them immediately.

Believe it or not, the guys were beaten up without a chance to speak. They fell on the ground while screaming in pain after getting hit.

Yue didn't show any mercy and the girl's face became stiff and Yue went back to Hajime immediately. And they began walking home again. Not even three minutes had passed after the commotion. A short-term battle, that reminded of a certain space hero. (TL: Don't know the reference.)

[Yue-neechan is strong～! How coool～!]

[….N, Myuu will be trained when you grow up.]

Myuu's future is a bit worrisome. Myuu praises Yue, however Hajime feels irritated as he wasn't able to do anything as a man. Even with his troubled look, he fell in love again with his lover.

(Huh? Was Yue so strong in close combat? Moreover, why was I able to analyze their strength……..)

While holding Myuu with his right hand, Hajime unconsciously puts his other hand to his thigh. And there, his hand is searching for

something. However, that “Something” is not there and he feels some kind of discomfort.

At night.

After dinner and taking a bath, Hajime threw himself onto his bed. His hair was not dry yet, and he had begun brooding over something.

He had a strange feeling. It should be his unchanging daily life…… but his instincts say something like [This is wrong!] and his happy daylie life got denied. [Wake up!] it said.

Hajime scratched his head while being irritated.

At that time, knocking-sounds unexpectedly sounds.

[……..Hajime?]

[Aa, yeah I’m here.]

Yue opened the door and entered the room.

In a negligee. White sexy arms and feet were shown. Yue came closer to Hajime and noticed that he had wet hair and scolded him! While having a scolding gaze, she arrived at his bed.

In addition, she began to dry off Hajime’s hair while he was lying on the bed.

[N……It’s dry now. It’s bad to leave it wet. You’ll catch a cold.]

[You are right, Thank you, Yue.]

[Nn.]

Hajime was thanking her and Yue hugged him from behind.

And she buries her face in Hajime’s neck like a spoiled child. Both of her arms invade Hajime’s clothes from the back and start to caress Hajime’s chest. After Remia picks up Myuu, Yue becomes a spoiled child.

As long as Myuu is there, they can't be spend much time as lovers, so some fault lies in that. When there are holidays, Yue is sulking pretty much as he cares for Myuu too much. It's inevitable to some degree, however her desire to monopolize him is strong.

(She is stronger than any thugs, full of love and kindness, she loves me and is the best girlfriend there is. …..I am satisfied with this everyday life. I should feel blessed. Yet…. Why am i dissatisfied) What is wrong? Why is there a "moyamoya"-feeling in my chest?)

While feeling the softness and the temperature of Yue's body, Hajime tries to ignore the uneasiness which swells up. To such a Hajime Yue whispers something to his ears.

[…..Everything is fine. Do not worry. I'll make Hajime happy.]

[Yue……]

[…….Look only at me. Everything is fine, i am here. Hajime's ideal. Forever at your side.]

[……..]

While melting in such a sweet whispering, Hajimes consciousness began to fade. At this rate, how sweet would it be to sleep while being spoiled by Yue.

(That's right. Yue is here. There isn't anything more important. … There shouldn't be. I don't need anything else. Even if i would need to throw everything away…… My ideal lover is besides me. Only that……)

His consciousness is breaking off. Losing strength in his body, without change his self is being comfortable soaked in warm feelings.

Then, while all his dissatisfaction are on the verge of disappearing,

——I defend Yue, Yue defends me. With that we are the strongest. We'll defeat everything and overcome the world. (TL: He starts speaking here with "Ore" again.)

Suddenly, strange words appear in his mind. Hajime consciousness surfaces rapidly and he opens his eyes wide.

——Aa~, If you like, Yue can come too?

His voices echoes again. It was the promise of taking Yue back to his home.

Afterwards Yue smiled. They go back to his home together. While he said that she had smiled like a blooming flower. She was happy from the bottom of her hearth.

If you think of it, when Hajime saw that for the first time, he was probably done in.

Also, the oath was set on the day of departure after passing life or death situations and stepping into the world. They vow to protect each other, defeat everything that stands in their way and go to Hajime's hometown together.

His instincts tell him that. Immediately before he his consciousness fades he remembers the important oath embraces himself and "Something about seeing Yue" and stands up.

(…..Ideal Lover? Sweet, gentle world? I'm stupid (□□□)!)

Hajime covered his eyes and gritted his teeth to the very limit. If he did not do so, he wouldn't be able to forgive himself. (TL: He would start crying.)

(…..I forgot the promise. Was almost blinded by this world. I'm disgusted about myself.)

Hajime hit his cheek with his full strength for punishment. Though Yue is surprised by the sudden action of Hajime and extents her hand,

Bashi!

It was deflected by Hajime's hand.

Yue wraps her hand with her other hand with a sad expression.

With the expression, which was probably produced in the great labyrinth, Hajime [….Don't kid with me] spat out an abuse.

[……Hajime, what's wrong?]

Yue's question was disregarded and Hajime turned a sharp glance towards Yue like he was another person.

[Well, Yue. Yue is important for me. I don't need anything besides her.]

[…..Hajime, I am happy.]

Though Yue is confused by Hajime's sudden words, her expression softens up immediately. However, contrary to the words, Hajime's gaze remains sharp.

[That why, If I tell you to cut down or cast away someone else, will you do it?]

[If Hajime really wishes for that.]

Yue nods to Hajimes words without hesitation.

[Even if it were Shia, Kaori, Tio or even Myuu?]

[If Hajime wishes for that.]

Almost like embodying Hajime's ideal Yue and carrying out all of Hajimes wishes. To such a girlfriend, rather than being happy about it, he shows an irritated expression. He mutters in a small voice [I was drawn in by that, impossible…..]

And, with a sharp glance he spits out words.

[Is that so…..I understand, bastard.]

In the moment when he declared Yue as an imitation, Hajime's appearance changed. From the appearance of a japanese with black hair, to a boy with gray hair and an eyepatch.

[Crap. I really fell into the trap just like that…..That's why you

shouldn't be careless in a great labyrinth……Better said, the one who created Haltina is one of a fella.] (TL: Just checked, "Haltina" should be read "Harz"-ina (Harutsuina) which means "amber", but i'll leave it Haltina as it was used in earlier chapers)

Yue walks up to the cursing Hajime. And she reaches out to Hajime with a clinging expression.

[…..Stay here? If Hajime stays here he will be happy.]

[Shut up, fake. Don't call my name so familiarly.]

[…..Why? I'm Yue. Hajime's lover. Ideal lover. With what are you dissatisfied.]

[With everything you idiot. Doing everything I want, monopolizing me, my ideal lover? That's only a doll. I don't have the hobby of playing with dolls.]

Hajime wants to get out of this space already and spits out to Yue that she's a fake.

[…..Wrong. I'm not a doll. I have all the personality of Hajime's ideal lover. That's why, stay here. Everything that Hajime wants will be like his ideal. I'll always stay by his side.]

Apparently, it doesn't seem to be an ordinary fake. The world was also produced by the memory and also the characters were read with the transition/teleportation. There, IF there would be something more impossible "Maybe, if it's that way"-created, an even more ideal world would be created.

Certainly, with the pain tasted in hell, and with what may stand before them in the future, that it would be ideal to live with Yue and the other in the peaceful Japan.

However,

[It's beyond help. It couldn't be even more wrong.]

Hajime says it like it was like a trivial matter! A red light emits from his body. The clear red magic is spread though the world in a

moment and isn't stopping and raising its density by a dreadful amount.

As long as this is a trial, when clearing the conditions, it is possible to escape it, but he can't help it and uses his whole strength. The point is, he's venting his anger.

[…….Why?]

It should be his ideal word, so Yue asks Hajime why he's rejecting it. Hajime continues to discharge his magic power and turns his glare to the fake.

[Don't "Why?"-shit me. It's a simple story. My ideal Yue is not such garbage. This real one exceeds my ideals by far. The real Yue is more attractive than a Yue which doesn't exist!]

Hajime pours out magic to the very limit and remembers the worthless feeling again, lets out a loud roar and pours even more magic out and the space finally begins to crack.

While the worlds cracking it make a "bikibeki"-sound and expands a bit, however the magic is not strong enough and it's already exhausted. However, there is still a stupid method left as he doesn't want to yield to this space. That's because he's pretty stubborn.

Hajime takes out a magic stone out from his stock and uses "Limit Break". He raised his magic power in one go.

[Those guys are always like this. They always trample on my ideals and try to end them! To tie us with them! Strongly! It won't go like those troublesome guys want to! Still, for this reason, I will be the strongest!]

The world is dyed crimson red. Like piercing the heavens, a bright red torrent bursts out.

And,

Bariiiiiiiiiin!!

The world was broken.

Fragments of the world are fluttered like glass in the air. It shines like diamond dust.

At the end of its life, like sparking, the imitation Yue lets out a smile in the broken world. It wasn't like Yue's smile. It was like….. someone else's smile.

Hajime had an idea what that was, however his consciousness began to fade rapidly and he wasn't able to point that out.

[……You passed. With only being nice you don't stand a chance. There is no sense in only giving. Even if it's hard or painful, only what was piled up in reality can make you happy. Don't forget that.]

It was a voice different from Yue's. It's more manly than feminine. However, it was a very gentle voice.

Hajime at the end of his consciousness cannot help it and raises his voice.

[None of your bussiness…..But, I'll remember it.]

The person was already hard to see, nonetheless still raised a gentle smile at the end…..it felt just like that.

Chapter 128

Hajime felt a dry,cold texture on the back of his head. This feeling rapidly brought Hajime's dozing consciousness back to reality.

[…..Where is…..]

He shook his head to clear it, then quickly stood up and checked his surroundings.

Without any sources of light it was pitch-black. However, since Hajime had his 'Night Vision' the darkness didn't hinder his sight.

As a result, a quick look around told him that he was in a cave similar to the large tree they had entered before he lost consciousness. However he quickly realised that it was much larger.

There was one distinct difference though It was a domed, circular space, filled with transparent tan coloured, oblong objects that gave off a clean feeling. They were regularly spaced throughout the domed area.

Judging from the size, each could fit a person inside.

Hajime thought they looked exactly like coffins.

The empty space Hajime had woken up in was lined up with these tan coffins.

Hajime looked around, but there was nothing in the center of the dome and there didn't seem to be any kind of exit in the surroundings.

He turned his gaze back onto one of the coffins lined up in a row and after hesitating slightly, stepped up beside.

[This is…..just like amber.]

Then Hajime breath caught when he realised Shia was inside the amber.

Hajime thought the sleeping Shia inside the transparent coffin looked just like an ancient insect trapped in amber.

He briefly used ‘Sign Perception’ to check Shia’s status and was able to sense a steady pulse.

He was able to keep himself calm by recalling when he came to. Hajime was guessing that he had also been encased in amber shortly before he woke up.

There were a total of nine amber coffins enshrined in the room. He suspected that if he checked all of them he would find his other party members trapped inside. They had most likely been imprisoned in the amber after they had entered the hollow of the pseudo-treant.

They were all probably ensnared in appealing dreamlike worlds just as he had been. If they manage to escape from that dream world then it is likely that they will be freed from the amber right in front of Hajime’s eyes.

As Hajime found and stared into the amber imprisoning Yue he concluded that there was at least one good thing about the current situation.

[Well, at any rate it’s good that Yue and Tio are back in their bodies. Turning them back myself…..may have been a problem.]

Just as Hajime had said, inside two of the amber coffins were Yue and Tio, and not in their goblin forms but their usual, beautiful, bodies. They were probably returned to their original selves when the previous stage was cleared.
Personally Hajime was glad. He would have loved her either way, but the original Yue was the best.

Hajime lowered himself down beside Yue and stretch his hand out towards his beloved’s face. Of course the amber got in the way, but he still moved his hand as if to caress her face.

[Come back soon, Yue. I want to hear your voice…..]

For a moment the dangerous thought of breaking the amber by

force crossed his mind, but if he did break her free he was worried that it might cause the trial to end in failure, so he held back the urge.

[…..Yue in a blazer……was dangerous. Shia too….how was dream me able to retain his reason?….Alright, I'll have you wear it once we've returned to Japan.]

As Hajime was caught up in these stupid thoughts the amber began to emit a faint light.

Hajime withdrew his hand and took a step back while watching the change.

As the light grew stronger the amber began to melt from the outside inwards. As the amber melted it would trickle down the side and be absorbed into the ground.

Within 5 minutes the amber covering Yue had completely dissipated.

Hajime confirmed Yue was breathing from the rising and falling of her chest. With that his remaining tension dissolved and he gently gathered her up in his arms.

It wasn't clear whether he didn't want to leave her lying down on the ground, or perhaps more likely, he just wanted to hold her.

Yue's long eyelashes began to quiver as Hajime gently brushed some of her hair away from her face while he cradled her in his arms like a child.

Yue slowly opened her eyes.

[Yue….how are you feeling?]

[……N, Hajime?]

[Aah, it's me.]

Yue still seemed to be a little dazed, but her gaze didn't wander away from Hajime for even a moment.

Once her consciousness had completely returned she stared at Hajime carefully.

[…Is it…..the real Hajime?]

[Haha, I understand why you would ask, but Yue must decide for herself. Is the me before Yue right now real, or a fake?]

There was most likely an imposter Hajime in the dream Yue saw,but Hajime was happy to let Yue judge for herself. He was sure that she would be able to tell the difference between the real him and the fantasy she had seen.

[By the way, right now I am sure that the Yue in my arms is the real one.]

Hajime's words left Yue staring at him with a blank expression for a moment, but she quickly grasped his meaning and smiled.

Hajime was telling her that there had also been an imitation of Yue in his dream, and that he was glad that she too had dreamed of him in her ideal world.

The corner of Yue's eyes lowered and her mouth arced to form a truly delightful smile.

[……How can you tell?]

Yue already knew the answer, but she still wanted to hear him say it. Even if their hearts understood each other, it was still a wonderful thing to hear your beloved say the words out loud.

Once again, Hajime knew exactly how Yue felt. So he shrugged his shoulders and answered casually.

[I don't feel any uneasiness…..deep inside of me. It's like my soul is whispering to me "the one in your arms is your 'special one'"]

[Fufu…..Me too. Deep inside something is telling me that the person I am embracing now is Hajime. … …Forget I asked?]

[Maa, you were still half asleep.]

Yue eyes softened as Hajime once again shrugged his shoulders, then she suddenly wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him forcefully.

—-Gohon! (TL: *cough*)

[……What was I like in your dream?]

[My school's blazer looked so good on you that I could die.]

Yue could now guess what kind of world Hajime had seen, but the unexpected answer was so amusing that Yue couldn't stop her small voice from ringing out with laughter when she heard it..

[…I'll wear it for you someday.]

[That's something to look forward to. How was it for you?]

Uuohon!

Yue buries her face into Hajime's neck. As he was enjoying the repeated pecks of her lips against his neck Hajime asked her about her dream too.

[……..The ceremonial clothes and throne suited you so well I could almost die.]

[Sorry…..Ceremonial clothes aside, a throne is impossible. Or rather, why a throne?]

[Kufufu….In my dream I was an Empress…and we had 12 children.]

[Just how far did you go in your dream!? A dozen is too many!]

Hajime unintentionally drew himself back from Yue and stared at her in shock. Yue stared at Hajime with a seductive look and licked her glossy lips still wet from the kiss.

This seductive look caused Hajime's breath catch and made his heart to start racing. The fierce spirit that could withstand the attacks of any monster was easily shaken.

[…….Fufu, I have high expectations.]

[……As expected, I won't be able to win against Yue in my whole life.]

—-Gohotsuehhon! (Editor: *choke* *sob*? TL: YES, NOT MY NOTE!!!! Btw. is more like *hardcore cough*)

Hajime gave a roguish smile while staring up towards the sky, the light of seriousness in Yue's eyes had forced him to give in.

Once again he was sure, 'this is my Yue'.

Returning to the excitement from before, Hajime cupped the side of Yue's cheek with one hand before sliding it down to her waist and embracing her. Yue, sensing that Hajime wanted the same thing as her, closed her eyes and lifted her lips towards his.

Her rose-coloured cheeks were irresistibly cute, and her vibrant tongue, visible through her opened and bewitching lips, was extremely captivating. There was no more need for words as the two drew closer, each wanting the others lips. They continued to draw closer. 10 centimetres…..5 centimetres….and when the distance reached 0…

[Ugottsukeetsuehengohotsugahatsutsutobuetsukushoitsu!!!!] (TL: Gibberish for me. Maybe somebody will get it right: ウゴッツケエッェヘンゴホッガハッツトブエックショイッ！！！！)

[—Aah?]

[—N?]

They were interrupted by a strange noise that was vaguely familiar. This time the unidentified sound had been close enough that they couldn't miss it anymore.
Yue and Hajime exchanged glances, then turned their heads towards the sound. There they saw…

[Uuu *gusu*, whatever….I can see I'm not wanted….even though I did my best to come back…..and then suddenly that atmosphere…..tried to get attention by clearing my throat,

but…..uuuu *gusu*…reality is always so cruel….uuu~.]
(TL: Left it *gusu* rather than translating it. It just means crying, bawling or something like that.)

They were greeted with the pitiful sight of Shia, struggling to hold back her tears as her rabbit ears drooped. The drops of moisture trickling out from the corner of her eyes stirred up quite a bit of pity.

It would seem that Shia had woken up shortly after Yue, unfortunately they had been too caught up in their own reunion to notice.

Hajime and Yue quickly began to soothe the utterly miserable Shia. Hajime drew Shia close and tightly embraced her, and after a while the lonely rabbit's usual spirit began to return. Soon both her rabbit ears and cheeks were twitching with delight, while her rabbit tail flapped about happily.

[Un, as I thought, Shia must have rabbit ears. It's the rabbit ears that make her who she is, she just isn't Shia without them. Better put, it's that Shia existence is defined by her rabbit ears.]

[No, I can't understand that! Rabbit ears are not all that I am… but you really seem happy to see them Hajime-san. Did something happen in your dream?]

[Aah~, do I? The Shia in my dream didn't have any rabbit ears, she was just an ordinary girl.]

[……Is that even Shia?]

[Ano, Yue-san? It's true that my rabbit ears are part of my identity, but I would still be Shia without them you know?]

Shia was beginning to feel a vague sense of unease from their reactions.

Perhaps they are only nice to me because they like my rabbit ears?

Hajime and Yue quickly began to reassure Shia once they saw her worried expression and soon changed the topic to asking her what

she had seen in her dream.
It seems that she dreamt of a world where the Haulia tribe weren't exiled and hunted, and she was able to live happily together with Yue and Hajime.

Yue explained hers again as well. It seems that in her dream she was never betrayed and her former country didn't fall to ruin. She had received Hajime as her groom and they had started a family together.

[As for me, my world was one where I was living a happy life with Yue, Shia & the others without ever having been summoned to this world. It basically rewrote the great suffering I experienced in the past but included the happiness of now.]

[I see… That certainly would be an ideal world in a certain sense]

[…..How did Shia escape?]

Shia answered the question on how she escaped from her dream world with a big smile and a laugh.

[It was obviously because I couldn't deny my current self even if I wanted to.]

[…I see]

Yue nodded with a convinced look while Hajime nodded with a gentle look in his eyes.

In her dream Shia must have remained as her weak self from the past, but she was unable to accept it.

[In the dream I met Hajime-san and the others before my family were attacked. We were all living together and I was fine with just being protected. But something felt wrong! It was if my heart was screaming at me 'there is no way you can stand beside them with a way of life that embraces weakness'. The Hajime-san who was telling me he would protect me and the Yue-san who was telling me not to worry… were certainly sweet and gentle, pleasant even, but the more they told me that the more my discomfort grew… By the time I noticed it, I had already decided to fight by the side of

Hajime-san and the others.]

[So that's how you got back…]

[Hai! It is because instead of watching your backs, I want to stand beside you both now and in the future. Even if it ends up being a path filled with hardships and pain.]

While watching Shia grin happily Hajime became lost in thought. Shia had really become strong. The first time they had met…..he had tried to drive her away as hard as he could… Now it wasn't possible for him to reject her, all thanks to her love for Hajime and her strong desire to be an equal part of their group.

A feeling of affection for Shia, different from the one he felt for Yue, welled up inside Hajime. He pulled her head towards his chest and began patting her gently.

Standing at their side, Yue was able to guess Hajime feelings from the affectionate face he was making.

[Fue, umm, Hajime-san?]

[Maa, how should i say it?… welcome back, Shia. You did well.]

[Ah… Yes, I'm back…]

'The place where you belong is by my side' is what Shia felt Hajime meant when she heard him say 'welcome back'. For a short while it left her feeling a little giddy and embarrassed, but soon the happiest smile surfaced on her face and she clung onto Hajime tightly.

As usual, Hajime had Yue cuddled up under his right arm and Shia embraced under the left arm as they all discussed their dreams, and as they were chatting another one of the amber prisons began to give off a faint light. Once again, one of their companions was about to break out of their prison of sweet temptation.

[If I'm not mistaken, that amber is…]

Hajime, recalling who was in that prison, muttered softly. Yue increased the intensity of her magical light so they could better see

the escapee. As the light grew brighter…

[Mugaa! Master's scorn is not such a half-hearted thing as that–! If you expect to satisfy me you better train harder before coming back again!]

[[[……]]]

The person waving her fist in the air and saying such things immediately after waking up was, of course, none other than Tio.

Able to guess the contents of Tio's dream just from her remark, they all reflexively directed silent gazes of scorn at her. Hajime, who was spoken of in such a way, eyes especially looked as if they were staring at trash.

Feeling his gaze, all of the muscles in Tio's body began to quiver. Then, turning around with an excited expression on her face, she was greeted with the cold gazes of Hajime's group and started to tremble even more. After a moment she started running towards Hajime like a lost dog towards its owner, an expression of ecstasy on her face.

[Master~ This one just got back now~! Shower mistress with your love~!](TL note: She was actually saying love me or favour me, but i decided to go along with this instead.)

Even after being turned into a Goblin she was still the same as always. Tio jumped towards Hajime with a divers pose.

Dopan!!

[Gafu-!]

Hajime silently drew Donner and shot Tio mid jump, causing her to perform a triple flip in the air before landing facedown on the ground. He then stepped onto her back and trampled her further into the ground with his feet, causing her to start making screams heavily mixed with panting noises.

[This worthless dragon! Just what the heck did she have me do in her dream?]

[This is it! This is what this one missed! Even though this one did her best to return from that fake world, this one is rewarded by being shot and trampled underfoot, with eyes that look at this one as if seeing trash! The mildness of that fake was nothing compared to this exquisite pain! This is how mistress' one and only master does things! More! Hurt this one more~!]

[…Just die, you pervert.]

[Abababababababah]

Hajime, unable to listen to her outcries anymore, snapped and invoked 'Thunder Clad'. Tio, unable to withstand it, arched backwards before exhausting her strength and collapsing back onto the ground while giving off white smoke.

However, despite the ordeal, the expression of Tio's face was one of perverted ecstasy.

She looked truly happy, which left Hajime feeling even more repulsed.

Soon after that Tio revived herself without any appearance of having suffered any damage at all. Then, though no one asked and they all refused to listen, she zealously talked at length about how unbecoming a master the Hajime in her dream was.

The fake world should be designed to show the specific individual a sweet fantasy that would leave them trapped inside their dreams.

Assuming that is true, Tio being able to escape due to feeling unsatisfied is an extremely strange story. It's an unpleasant thought, but it seems that Tio was able to escape because the Great Dungeon was unable to gauge her pervertedness.It had been able to read that Hajime is Tio's loved one, and that Tio likes sexual oppression, but it seems it wasn't able to understand how she interpreted 'punishment' and 'reward'.

Now, the Great Dungeon, who's trap had easily been escaped and was being spoken ill of after having done it's best to create Tio's ideal master, seemed kind of pitiable.

Haltina must never have expected this kind of pervert would come to challenger it.

In his mind Hajime paid his respects to Haltina while imagining them wearily crumbling into dust.

While they were all caught up in this another one of the amber prisons begun to shine. It would seem the next one to escape would be Kaori.

Hajime and the others approached the side of her amber shortly before she opened her eyes. At first she seemed to be panting faintly, but when she saw Hajime and the others gathered around her she took a deep breath in relief. However, the moment her eyes met with Hajime's her faced flushed a boiling red and she retreated until her back hit the wall.

Hajime, who had never been avoided by Kaori before, was more confused than surprised. He turned his gaze to Yue and the others as if to ask what happened. Kaori, noticing Hajime's confusion, quickly attempted to resolve the misunderstanding.

[Oh…! It's not like that Hajime-kun! Just now that is, a little, how should I say it… Anyway it's not like that. I wasn't avoiding you…]

[Ahh~ No, it's not a problem… I guess it must have something to do with your dream… Just what was it that you saw…?]

[Eh? Ah, what… you ask? That's… …. ….Awwaaah]

Kaori tried to answer the question asked by the wryly smiling Hajime, but wasn't able to give a coherent answer. Her cheeks started blushing more and more until she eventually covered her face with both hands and started to moan.

The girls were able to get the gist of her dream from her reaction and each displayed a different response. Tio was going [Hohou~] while grinning as if she found something extremely interesting. Shia was muttering […Kaori-san tteba] while blushing and intermittently averting her eyes. And as for Yue… she attacked her with sharp words while looking at her with scornful eyes.

[…Kaori, you closet pervert]

Kaori trembled and tried to make excuses for her still beet-red face.

[I…I am not a closet pervert! D..don't say such weird things!]

[…then, tell us what kind of dream you had.]

[Th..that's…It..it was… just a repetitive everyday life]

[…to say you attacked Hajime on daily basis…]

[I…I didn't attack! I just pushed him down a little… after that Hajime-kun himself… waaah!]

[…Kaori is banned from getting close to Hajime. She's too dangerous.]

[I..I'm not dangerous! Hajime-kun she's wrong, you know? I wouldn't attack Hajime-kun, you know?]

[Haa… yes, yes… I understand.]

[Uu~~]

It would seem all sorts of things happened with Hajime while Kaori was in her dream. Although she was able to shake off the temptation and return… it seems she indulged in quite the bittersweet springtime of her youth before she returned.

Kaori kept blushing and stealing glances at Hajime. It seems that this innocent reaction stirred up the sadist in Yue, who started trying to further stimulating Kaori by whispering something into her ear.

Kaori covered her ears and started shaking her head, trying to escape from Yue's tormenting whispers. It was like watching a pitiful mouse being toyed with by a playful cat.

[Maa, anyway, with this all our members are back.]

Shia released the tension from her shoulders upon hearing Hajime's

words, then turned her gaze towards Kouki and the others.

[That's true. Then, what should we do about them?]

[Let's see… …If it comes down to it we can just destroy the amber, but for now let's wait for them to break out on their own. If we interfere it'd probably render their efforts to challenge the Great Dungeon thus far pointless.

[How long do we wait?]

[Hmm… perhaps long enough for us to eat and take a little break? In my case, I snapped and destroyed my dream with brute force. I probably cleared it just fine….but I only have about ten percent of my magic left so I would like to rest and recover for a bit.

[……Just what the heck were you thinking?]

Shia was directing an astonished gaze towards Hajime as she spoke. Their usual roles had been reversed and Hajime was wearing quite a bitter expression.

[Believe me, I am reflecting on my actions. I seem to have been unusually worked up since we entered this Dungeon.]

[Ahh~! That'd be because the Dungeon used Yue-san…]

[Maybe, but I can't use that as an excuse, you know, because in a sense it proves that it really is a weakness. It'll probably be difficult, but I am going to try and use this opportunity to overcome it.]

Shia directed an admiring gaze at the Hajime who was showing such an admirable attitude. Then, after throwing a sidelong glance at Yue, who was still busy teasing Kaori, and Tio, who was listening in and breathing roughly, Shia leaned in and whispered to Hajime.

[Ano, Hajime-san…]

[N?]

[Umm, that is…If what happened to Yue-san were to happen to me…would you also get angry like that?]

Shia was averting her gaze, but her rabbit ears were honed in on Hajime's direction. She wanted to know if Hajime would get angry for her sake, even if wasn't to the same extent as he did for Yue.

At first Hajime was going to brush her off as usual, but when he saw Shia peeking at him with wavering eyes he scratched his cheek and decided to answer her honestly this time.

[The reason I destroyed the dream wasn't just because of Yue. You were there too, but I… just couldn't be happy without the Shia I know.]

[Ah…… ehehe, is that so?]

Shia was waving her rabbit ears and tail around happily while wearing a delighted smile on her face. Upon seeing her happy expression Hajime's hand reached out naturally to feel them.

Soon after, Kaori, unable to take Yue's teasing anymore, clung onto Hajime in tears. Shia, who was still in an excessively good mood, begun to soothe Kaori while Yue puffed out her chest with satisfaction. Tio….well let's leave her aside.

They decided to eat a meal while they waited for Kouki and the others, but even after 3 hours there was no sign of them escaping.

[It might be better to save them soon…]

[… …n, right]

[It does seem like… we would be here for a long time if we keep waiting for them to get out on their own](Note by TL: Shia)

Both Yue and Shia voiced their agreement, thinking that it couldn't be helped. However Kaori quickly stepped in.

[Wouldn't it be alright to wait a little longer? Just a bit more? If it's Shizuku-chan and the others then they can surely…]

Since Kaori herself understood Shizuku and the others desperation better than anyone, one way or another she wanted them to capture the dungeon and receive the Age of Gods magic. A person's survival

rate increases by leaps and bounds with even one Age of Gods magic. Kaori wanted them to get stronger so that they too could safely return to Japan.

The reason Hajime had allowed them to accompany him into the dungeon was so that he could use them as foot soldiers in the cases where apostles like Nointo appeared again. To further this plan he was hoping they would be able to obtain the Age of Gods magic here and then head out and defeat the other Great Dungeons on their own.

That's why, when he saw Kaori's pleading eyes, he shrugged his shoulders and decided to wait a little while longer. Kaori smiled happily when she saw Hajime agree and began to casually try to get closer to him, however she was immediately blocked just as casually by Yue.

As this was happening one of the ambers started to shine.

[That amber is…Shizuku-chan's!]

[Huh, as expected the fastest one was Yaegashi.]

[Fumu. Shizuku is level-headed after all](Tio)

Upon seeing the melting amber Kaori rushed over at full speed. Soon after Shizuku abruptly opened her eyes and began groaning in a soft voice as she tried to get up. Kaori reached over and supported her as Shizuku weakly raised herself out of the remains of the amber.

[Where am I…? …Kaori?]

[Un, it's me, Shizuku-chan. Welcome back!]

[I see, I'm back, huh. Fuu, for some reason I'm feeling quite tired…]

Shizuku gave a heavy sigh as if she really was feeling tired, before shaking her head as if to clear it of some lingering thought. She then smiled at Kaori and returned her greeting with a warm [I'm back].

After Kaori and Shizuku had finished their happy reunion Hajime and others approached as well.

[You overslept quite a bit, but it's good that you were able to overcome it]

[Hah? Ah, Na..Nagumo-kun… Y..you're right. It's good to be back.]

For some reason the moment Hajime called out to her Shizuku's gaze began to wander aimlessly and she started to stutter.

Upon seeing Shizuku behave strangely Yue and the others became puzzled. Shizuku cleared her throat as if to hide her unrest and turned her face away from them to conceal her slightly reddened cheeks.

[…seems Kouki and others are taking their time, huh?]

[Un, we came back several hours ago, but since then Shizuku-chan is the first one to escape.]

[Is that so? They came up with a troubling trial I guess. Well, it can't be helped. While saying so, it seems I made you wait quite a bit. I guess I should say I am sorry?]

[Don't worry about it, Shizuku-san. Congratulations on your escape. …and… i'd like to ask you a tiny question, but…]

[Thank you Shia. It's alright, what might it be about?]

Shizuku replied to Shia with a smile that was using all of her reserves of composure. She had gotten a bad feeling about Shia's question right away.

However, it seems the one who would be asking the question wouldn't be Shia, but rather Yue, who had somehow gotten beside Shizuku without anyone noticing.

[…….]

[Wh..what is it?]

[…….]

[Umm, looking at me silently like that makes me feel uncomfortable… …Yue?]

For some reason Yue was starting into Shizuku's eyes from beside her. Shizuku was desperately trying to suppress the feeling of unease that Yue's exquisite, doll-like, deadpan face was stirring inside her.

Finally, Yue asked a question with a tone that suggested she was confirming something she already knew.

[…Shizuku…what kind of dream was it?]

[Eh? What kind you say? It was an ordinary dream. There was nothing unusual. Yes, it was a really plain, ordinary dream]

[…ordinary? Who was in it?]

[Who you say? …Everyone. Everyone was there]

[… … I see]

Shizuku answered firmly while looking straight into Yue's eyes, as if to show that she wasn't disturbed one bit. Although this was her intention, she didn't realise that her extremely abstract answers had given away the state of affairs in her heart.

Yue, of course, had noticed it, as had the others. However Shizuku was giving off such a strong aura implying she didn't want to talk about it that they decided to leave it be for now.

When Yue and the others backed off Shizuku appeared openly relieved.

With the inquisition finished, they guided the tired Shizuku to the centre of the room and begun to prepare tea. As she was being lead to join the impromptu tea time, Shizuku couldn't help muttering to herself.

[… …Me being a princess is impossible… …and more importantly,

why wasn't the prince Kouki or Ryutarou?… … murmur…]

Though there wasn't anyone close enough to hear her.

Several hours later Shizuku finished resting and had completely recovered from her mental fatigue. Having decided they couldn't wait any longer, they were now preparing to force the breakout of Kouki, Ryutarou and Suzu.

Hajime or Yue could've easily been able to destroy the amber, but in their party was someone who had a skill that was much better suited for the job.

[Now then Kaori, it's all yours. Try not to 'decompose' their bodies.]

[Un, it's alright. Outside of real battle there's no need to worry about the control anymore.]

After giving her reply to Hajime, Kaori abruptly put her hand on the nearest amber and began to release her maryoku (magic) as if to permeate it. Pale, silvery, magic rays coloured the room in moonlit brilliance as Kaori's maryoku delicately coiled around and spread itself evenly throughout the remaining amber prisons.

['Decompose.']

There was no need to chant, but since it helped to focus the image in her mind she recited it on purpose. Immediately after, the amber surrounding Kouki and others started to crumble. it looked more like it was decaying than melting, the particles that became too small for the eyes to see looked as if they were vanishing into thin air.

Within 3 minutes all the amber had completely decomposed and vanished into thin air. Concerned over the aftereffects of being forcibly released from their trials, Shizuku and Kaori anxiously began to check the condition of Kouki and the others.

However it seemed it was an unnecessary fear.

[…..Huh? Wha, Kaori? Shizuku? This is? But I was… with you two…]

[N, ah? What is this place? I thought I was……]

[Eh? No way… Eri was… …Eri…]

All three of them woke up suddenly, as if they had never been asleep.

Because they had suddenly awoken from their pleasant dreams to find themselves in a dimly lit cave it seems their senses had been thrown into confusion. Suzu was especially distraught, reaching her grasping hand out towards empty space. It was obvious from her words who she was reaching out for. Thinking about what kind of dream she must have been having, it is understandable why she wasn't able to wake herself up from it.

Both Kaori and Shizuku made sympathetic expressions when they saw Suzu's sad state. It wasn't surprising that the severe betrayal had left her wounded deeply. Though she is always laughing and smiling, even now that wound must be bleeding beneath the surface.

The trio slowly become silent as they sorrowfully started to realise that what they had been seeing was only a dream. However, they all handled the realisation differently. Ryutarou, even though he continues to give off a dejected feeling, abruptly scratches his head with an embarrassed expression while saying [Guess it can't be helped]. Kouki just chewed his lips with a vexed expression. While Suzu quickly forced a smile onto her face in an attempt to deceive them.

Since they couldn't bare to watch her like this, both Kaori and Shizuku immediately pulled Suzu into a tight hug.

Just as Hajime was about to call out to them, a magic circle appeared in the centre of the room.

It would appear that when everyone escapes from the amber they are forcibly sent on to the next stage. Ryutarou aside, Kouki and Suzu are still unstable. Hajime would've preferred to let them recover first, but… it appears that wasn't going to be possible.

[Amanogawa, Taniguchi, this is no time for you to be caught up in your thoughts, get ready. If you don't, all your dreams really will fall apart.]

[tte… … Aah, I know.]

[U..un. Right!]

The next instant the magic circle's light burst forth and filled the view of Hajime and the others.

<<LAST NEXT>>

Chapter 129

Hajime and the rest reappeared in the same forest of trees that they had left from.

However, it was too soon to start celebrating just yet. The area was vast, with trees stretching as far as the eye could see, giving Hajime no clue on which direction to head.

In many ways it resembled the tree levels in the Orcus Labyrinth, a forest somehow existing underground. Most of the trees appeared to be about the same height, but one tree in the distance seemed to tower over the rest. Hajime guessed that was their next destination.

“It looks like everyone is here.”

Hajime carefully watched the other members of the group with a squint. He had feared that the transportation circle would have split them up or put them into some new challenge, but it appeared like his worries were unfounded.

“….Hajime, any fakes?” Yue inquired.

“No, everyone seems okay. My eyes tell me that everyone is real.”

“It’s okay if Hajime-san says so.” Shia gives out a look of confidence.

Hajime wished Shia would be more careful in case he himself was the fake. However, he reasoned that Yue would be able to tell if Hajime was a fake and warn Shia, if that situation arouse.

Watching the dense forest ahead, Hajime gave the order for them to get moving. He glanced over his shoulder, examining the figure of Kouki and Suzu who wore shadows over their expressions.

Whatever Suzu’s dream had been, it seem to have hurt her deeply. Hajime couldn’t guess what Kouki had seen. No, whatever it was, it was enough that he didn’t come back to reality. Shaking off the dream was too much of a shock. Those dreams seemed to cut the

party as bad as any nightmare. It was a deep pain that they would never be able to completely escape from. Every member struggled to shake off the shock of those dreams and come back to reality.

However, they were in a labyrinth right now. They couldn't afford to lose their edge, or a single misstep could bring them to despair in a matter of seconds. The silence seemed to drag on forever.

"Suzu, Koaki, Are you just going to give up?" Hajime breaks the silence harshly.

"Like we have a choice!"

"Eh? What do you mean by that?'

Hajime stared down the two with piercing eyes. The sharp-tempered Ryuutaro raised his eyebrows in anger at Hajime's harsh words, but Hajime continued to speak before he could say anything.

"This is one of the great labyrinths. Death is merely a step ahead. Death is around every corner, just a second away. If you can't concentrate, then just give up here. Die in vain."

"Just wait for a moment there…"

"Even if you forgive yourself, that doesn't change the fact that you were unable to clear the trial from before. You can't change that. However, you could at least have the determination to rise to all the remaining challenges as necessary. You don't see it now, but someone who has no spirit is worse than a burden to the rest of us."

"… I,"

"I can open a gateway outside the labyrinth for you to flee. Either proceed or give up, but I won't allow you to continue like this."

Silence wrapped around the group. Kouki clinched his teeth in a desperate attempt to suppress indignation. However, after what Hajime had said to the group, he wasn't surprised that Kouki was angry.

The group had realized their failure. They had let their attention

slip, unconsciously assuming things would turn out okay because Hajime was there to pick up the slack. Even though they were looking to become stronger than Hajime, Kouki's group had depended on him to get through the middle section of the labyrinth. They were supposed to beat the labyrinth on their own, yet their dependence on Hajime made them angry at themselves.

However, they were afraid to vent their anger here, as Hajime waited for an answer. Kouki took deep breaths, attempting to discharge his anger with fresh air.

"Nagumo, We're okay now. We can keep going!" Suzu declared.

Hajime gave Suzu a nod, the mood immediately turning lighter. For a moment, Suzu trembled at a look from Hajime's eyes, but then gave Hajime a decisive nod.

"If Suzu can keep going. That's enough for me!" Kouki speaks up.

"Is that so? If you're good now, then focus on your surroundings." Hajime responded and just as quickly started walking again.

Ryuutaro clapped Kouki on the shoulder hard as he stared at the Hajime's back. Kouki knew Ryuutaro was trying to support him in a way only a childhood friend could and gave him a look of appreciation.

Even Kaori and Shizukuo seemed to be affected by the Suzu's encouragement and picked up their steps, taking either side of Suzu for support.

Hajime headed straight towards the trees he had identified earlier.

The area was quiet; there wasn't even a sound of crickets. Even the wind wasn't blowing, so when Hajime brushed by a branch the noise seemed to echo in the silence.

"Hmmm… this is a somewhat unpleasant feeling."

"Yeah, it's the same feeling like when we were in Orcus Labyrinth, right before the ambush." Kouki responds.

“For sure. But no signs of demons.”

Everyone’s eyes were leery with tension. Tio had her brows furrowed. Kaori and Shizuku shivered as they remembered the demon ambush, the demon woman toying with them.

“I sent some spider-golems ahead and they haven’t detected anything. I suspect we can continue without any incidents. But if it’d make you feel better, we can burn the whole forest down.”

“Nagumo… I don’t know how to say this, but sometimes your ideas scare me.” Ryuutaro Tsukkomi’d.

“I learned to think this way in the hell of the abyss. I’m alive today because of it. I didn’t have a barrier maker like Suzu to protect me.” Hajime responded seriously.

Turning everything to ash would leave nowhere for anything to hide. Although it would probably be a little dangerous if the surrounding area was turned to flames.

It looked like Hajime wasn’t able to persuade the other members. Instead, he removed Getsurin and several cross bits from his “treasure room”, just to be safe.

No one thought they would regret stopping Hajime. They didn’t know what would happen if they let Hajime carpet bomb the entire place. In particular, the way out might disappear.

“… Is it? Rain?”

“Looks like it, it’s starting to trickle down.”

Kouki frowned at the feeling of moisture from overhead. Suzu agreed as she wiped off her hand. They shuttered at the seemingly impossible phenomenon as their eyes met with the others in the group.

“Tsch… Yue!” Hajime called out suddenly.

“It’s a… holy shield!” Yue responded.

Hajime immediately reacts to the abnormality, calling Yue to create a barrier just in time.

Immediately after…

Zaaaaaaaaa…

The rain quickly turned into a torrent, striking Yue's barrier and sliding off the surface with a dorori sound. However, by all odds it couldn't be mere rain. The viscosity wasn't right, plus they were underground and there was no sky.

If they could figure out the trap. Were they being showered with sulfuric acid or some kind of toxin, or was it some kind of demon in disguise? This time, it seemed like the later.

"Nagumo-kun, it's all around us!"

Gazing calmly, even in this circumstance, Hajime carefully observes the outside of the barrier through the growing tension. The trees, grass, and land seemed to oozing out milky white stuff.

"Is it a slime or…? How were you able to conceal yourself? I can't even sense it with the magic eye."

"Nagumo! Our Feet!"

"It's through the barrier. Decomposition!"

While Hajime was contemplating a slime with the ability to avoid his notice, the milky slime had come up through the ground and surrounded their feet. Normally, the effect of "holy shield" is a spherical barrier deployed all the way to ground, but did not go into the ground. It seemed like the milky slime was lurking in the ground and was now attacking from the inside out.

To suddenly be attacked from the feet. Kaori hurried to invoke decomposition as the milky-white slime had already reached their knees.

The milky-white slime collapsed into smooth particles. As far as how slimes typically fight, they don't have much in the way of

physical attacks, but they'll consume something and then melt it, making it disappear completely.

"Oraa… It's sticking to everything!"

Ryuutaro pounded a fist into the milky-white slime, which was expanding to try to cover him. The gauntlet on his hand transmitted the impact through the slime, ripping it apart as his fist strikes the inner wall of Yue's barrier.

"You fool, Ryuutaro! You're making a mess!"

"This brain muscle! You're splashing it on me!"

"You? I'm sorry, I'm sorry!" Ryuutaro apologized.

"It feels so gross!" Shizuku complained.

Suzu and Shizuku raised voices of complaint as Ryuutaro attacked the slime. His attempt to punch the slime had splashed it all over the people beside him. (Translation Note: Imagine the girls all covered in sticky white stuff and you get the gist.)

"Oh no, Shizu, are you alright?"

"Yes, I'm okay, Kouki. These guys seem to die unexpectedly easy…" Suzu explained.

"Oh, no, I'll help… erm… Oh, never mind!" Kouki turned away and blushed.

"?"

The monsters didn't seem all that dangerous. In fact they were rather fragile from what you'd expect in a labyrinth. However, they had a bad side effect on the girls. Kouki couldn't talk to her without averting his gaze.

They also had to avert their eyes quickly from Suzu because she wasn't in a much better situation.

However, Suzu had a more suspicious face when she looked at

Kouki and witnessed the slimes beginning to cover the outside of the barrier.

The effect seemed to disturb Kouki.

That was perhaps the nature of the milky-white slime. First it rained down on everyone. Then it got spread around, such as when Ryuutaro hit them. In other words, it was there to cover you in the turbid liquid.

What Kouki was reacting to…. to put it simply, the appearance of Suzu and Shizuku covered in slime looked really bad. However, the girls didn't seem to notice it themselves.

And Yue and the others were regrettably not an exception.

As the milky white slimes had breached the barrier, Yue attacked with a scaled-down version of "Saint Sever" while burning the pieces away with "blue dragon". However, she wasn't able to stop minute drops from falling down on her face, streaming cloudy liquid over her cheeks and neck.

Shia had also struck one of the milky-white slimes with Doryukken, which had been trying to cover her like Ryuutaro and Shizuku, splattering what was attached. However, because her power was higher it ended up in a shockwave unlike Ryuutaros. The amount was small, but still…

Tio had taken the blunt of Shia's attack, becoming accidently bathed in milky-white slime. Shia wasn't trying to aim for Tio, but it seemed like it was just bad luck. Tio was in front, and the effect was similar to being hit with a pie in the face. (Translation Note: Yeah, we'll go with pie. There are kids reading this. This is a totally innocent scene and totally not a bukkake)

Tio was in a kimono with charming black hair covered in white liquid. Her leg peeked out from the hem of her hadake with more white liquid flowing down her legs. Yeah, this looked really bad on the surface.

Kaori was the only one spared from the blunt of the damage. There

was no splattering of liquid with the use of her decomposition spell. However, the initial rain before Yue had put up a barrier had already done its damage, and she didn't look much better than any of the other members.

Hajime considered using "summarize thunder" to hide the slime covered girls from the boys. Yue's appearance was too dangerous and Ryuutaro was looking around with eyes a little too bright for Hajime's comfort.

Hajime decided to be careful though since he still didn't know the milky white slime's weakness. It was important to be prudent.

(It'll be difficult to forget what has been seen this day.)

A lifeform this dangerous may find itself quickly becoming extinct.

So, like this, the milky slime in the barrier were easily destroyed. Now that the slimes on the inside were gone, Hajime turned his attention to those outside the "holy shield", which was now covered in creamy white slime. He slowly approached the wall and transferred a cross bit and a Getsurin outside of the wall.

"After all, it becomes like this…"

Hajime examined the world outside with his demon eye via the cross bit. The world outside overflowed with milky white slime. The walls and ceiling were covered and slime rained down. The ground had become a sea of milky white.

If it had not been for Yue's quick cast of the defensive magic, they could have ended up being quickly swallowed. This was truly a great labyrinth.

"Yue, will the barrier hold? I'm going to need to burn everything."

"Nn… go."

At Yue's word, Hajime releases all the crossbits and Getsurin at the same time.

"Reproduction Magic, it's time to burn them to hell!"

“So he’s going to use that…”

“Last time you used this Suzu’s barrier would have broke if we didn’t have revival magic? We’re going to die. Don’t attack them Hajime, we’re not the enemies!” Kyuutaro pleaded.

Hajime gave Ryuutaro a look before turning away. Suzu wore an expression like a dead fish. It seemed that Hajime’s prison of flames had turned into a trauma for her. Her eyes were slightly watery. Kouki was still evading his eyes. It looked like Kouki still remembered.

“Kaori, please get rid of the rest of the slime with your decomposition. It looks bad.”

Kaori was surprised at the attention Hajime was suddenly giving her. She looked around before realizing what Hajime was talking about when he said it “looked bad.”

All the ladies were dirty and covered in white liquid and it looked kind of… they blushed all at once. Hajime was purposely being vague, in consideration of the fact that weren’t aware of their own appearances. To directly point out what it looked like would be a bad move for any man.

Kaori blushed, finally understanding and giving a look of appreciation, she embarked on cleaning up the white liquid.

Hajime refocused on an image coming in from the cross bit.

(The rain of slime seemed to not weaken at all. Is there a limitless supply? Unless we take care of the ceiling, there is no meaning to this.)

The sea of slime was increasing in volume each moment. Hajime sent the Getsurin to the ceiling. It struck the ceiling, only to have milky white slime get wrapped around it, weakening the momentum.

Hajime made cuts in the ceiling using formation magic, the Getsurin cutting even marks into the rock like cutting through butter before making a central hole.

Hajime drew a small arch in the ceiling, then confirmed that the Getsurin cut in far enough that he could just see the tip. He brought out a spider-golem and another Getsurin from the “treasure room”.

The metallic spider overstretches the drop to nothingness around each hole.

He pulled out more spiders, and each on stretched itself across another hole as if they were glued to the ceiling. The spread out in unison across the ceiling.

Now, he could control hundreds of units when they were set to non-combative maneuvering. After practice, he was capable of moving 14 times the previous number simultaneously.

As result, 80 spider golems spread across the ceiling, and began activating a drill. to suppress the milky slime, it seemed like they came from the small holes and walls, so the only way to stop the slimes was to destroy the source.

The drilling seemed to work, stopping the outflow of slime from the places the golem’s drilled. The shower weakened visibly. The ceiling now emitted a red light, like the countless tails of a meteor shower.

(Okay, first take care of the ceiling, then we’ll worry about the ground.)

Hajime thought things through as he spun the Getsurin spun another hole and stuck another spider to the ceiling. In turn, he opened a gate in the circle of the Getsurin and began to remove tar from the “treasure room”.

“Well, well, to make my Yue dirty. I’ll need to burn the slime away without a trace.”

Hajime gave a fearless smile that showed the canines in his mouth, a heinous look in his eyes. Being able to cover Yue and Shia in white liquid was something Hajime couldn’t forgive.

Exactly where those commendable words were earlier when they could avoid the indiscretion…

“Devil, is this a devil? Shizu, Shizu, I’m scared…”

“Just don’t look… Suzu, Maybe if you can’t see him…”

“It’s dicey, Kouki He’s being unexpected and imposing again.

“So it’s a demon who looks like a man.”

Shizuku and company looked in horror at Hajime’s demonic appearance. Ryuutaro looked like he had seen true terror. Hajime was the kind of guy they should defeat as a hero, heroes driven by a sense of mission.

On the other hand, Yue and her group spoke up.

“Nnn…. Hajime, nice.”

“He is doing good!”

“Master ah… a glance like that. Would you only direct that eye towards your mistress?”

“… Hajime-kun… Manly…”

If something could be said of the situation, Love is blind? No matter how you look at it, Hajime’s face looked evil. However, to Yue and company it only served to charm them and make their hearts race. It was too late for them in a lot of ways.

Kaori wore a complex expression on her face at the sight of a belligerent Hajime. She had seen Hajime fight on in desperate situations before like in the Melusine Underwater Ruins. Seeing him like this reminded her of why she fell for him in the first place.

Looking at Kaori in such a situation, Koaki’s party looked at her as if the distance between them had become all the greater.

Suzu, after seeing Hajime’s fighting spirit and determination to annihilate the room full of slime, also diverted her line of sight. Even she couldn’t handle the sight of his heinous expression. That was normal, wasn’t it?

At that time, a tremendous roar echoed across the outside of the barrier. It was the sound of rocks cracking. The sound of destruction rang out in bigger and bigger succession. It sounded like the continuous burst of a firecracker, the roar beyond comparison. That was the carpet bombing started with Hajime's cross bit.

The milky white slime covering the barrier started to writhe. Hajime becomes covered in a sheer crimson light. Yue admired it. Hajime wasn't aware of it, single-mindedly focused on controlling the cross bits on the outside of the barrier.

The sea of slime had turned into a burning hell, reflecting in the magic stone eye behind his eye patch.

Hajime had spread black tar on the ceiling, creating blackrain that ran down from the ceiling, polluting the milky white slime below, while the Getsurin added in sprinkling tar across the sea of slime.

After enough tar had saturated the slime, the cross-bits began to drop cluster bombs. Each of the holes Hajime had created were packed full of small explosives and burning powder, the contents of each was enough to destroy a small house.

The cluster bombs ignited one after another, the slime sea undergoing one explosion after another, tearing the slimes into various small pieces. The explosive flame flooded across the sea, creating a lake of fire 3000°C in a prison of flame ignited by tar.

A tremendous amount of heat licked across the ground, rising into the air in a spire of scarlet. The milky white slime continued to burn, helpless to escape the heat. Hajime's murderous intent spread out, creating a world of scarlet that consumed everything. The trees were baked, the ground was melted, and the air was scorched. The Jukai forest was completely consumed.

A gap in the barrier finally became noticeable as milky slime fell away, burning red. Someone noticed it and raised a voice, only to realize that the barrier of slimes was replaced with a sea of flame, and the white slimes were quickly turned to ash.

Before long, the milky white around them had become completely

eliminated. There was nothing left but a few puddles of tar on the ground.

“I ～, It seems like they were devoured.”

“Looks like we no longer need the barrier.”

Yue nodded in confirmation.

“We should maintain it a bit more. There might be a few still lurking around.”

When Hajime stated so, countless black objects from the ceiling came down in a suite with a constant speed. It was the spider golems, which were lowering from hanging threads from the ceiling.

“It comes!?”

The spectacle of dozens of spider golems coming from the ceiling caused some of the party to shout out in surprise. After they realized what it was, they blushed in embarrassment, although those that recognized what they were only grinned.

The spider golems landed on the ground and began drilling once again into the floor and giant trees in the same way they had chewed up the ceiling.

Hajime finally affords some of his concentration to talk to the group.

“It’ll take some time to finish drilling all the giant trees. I don’t know how many slime there are out there. It’d be nice if we didn’t face any trouble once we leave the barrier, so we can take some time to finish up here. In that case, Yue, if you could leave the barrier up for just a bit longer.”

“…. Nn.”

While concentrating on operating the spider golems, Hajime instructed Yue who readily agreed. Either way, the crisis seemed to be over and everyone started to relax.

Kaori was already helping remove the white fluid from the other girls, ending their indecent appearance. However, Ryuutaro vowed to never forget.

Hajime continued to drill to the extent that it wouldn't disturb their journey the rest of the way to the giant trees. He sat cross-legged in place. In was a cardinal rule of an adventurer to rest when you could rest.

The others saw him rested and committed to resting themselves as well.

At that time, a soft weight press onto Hajime's back. Looking back over his shoulders, Hajime sees the figure of Yue there. She was hugging him from behind. She was spoiling Hajime as usual and put on a small smile for him.

"Ah… Hajime, something strange, Ah, really, I want that too Hajime."

"What, no, what are you talking about. Yue? Together in such a circumstance?"

Yue's breath is rough. Her lovely eyes were just a bit misted, and she was licking her lips. Any way you look at it, she was aroused.

If they were at an inn for the night, Hajime might have rejoiced, but this was clearly not the time right now.

To get aroused so suddenly in this situation, it seemed impossible. There was something abnormal with Yue right now. Hajime examined Yue with a serious look. Yue's body was hot and trembling. Her body was pressed up against his with an impatience that even made it hard for Hajime.

Hajime shakes his head in wonder watching Yue's condition before the shadow of the other girls caught his attention. He looked to where Shia was.

"Hajime… me… me, already… ah."

"Shia, you too?"

“Ah, Hajime, I like, I like you.”

“Wait, just wait.”

Shia prevented escape by sandwiching Hajime’s arm between her thighs and chest and hugging his right arm, rubbing his body. Obviously, it’s the same symptoms as Yue. Cheeks red, respiration high, pupils look hazy with animal passion. It’s like they had been shot with a full throttle of sex appeal. Hajime felt a little dizzy from the smell.

“What on earth…”

Hajime stared at them with a bewildered look. There was another figure that was acting the same way as Yue and Shia.

Kaori also had directed an eye towards Hajime, writhing unbearably. Kaori crawls towards him little by little on all fours, aligning hesitantly and rubbing Hajime’s legs. Tio even…

Koaki’s group were no exception. Ryuutaro’s pupils were hollow, and he was writhing uncomfortably. As if losing his senses, he creeps up next to Suzu as she hugs herself in a slouch. Meanwhile, Kouki is giving Shizuku a side glance with bloodshot eyes. He finally stands, approaching Shizuku with a hand extended towards her.

The problem was that Shizuku was acting in a very similar way. She was writhing in spot, stiff and unmoving, while biting her upper lip. She was silent, but had a tinge of red on her cheeks. It wouldn’t do to have them have to endure this situation. Once everyone regained their senses, it might be too late.

It was hard to tell what was really going on in Kouki’s mind, but there was lust in his eyes. Suzu is shivering and suffering, and Ryuutaro tries to catch her as she falls to the ground. As he called out her name, it was clear his intentions weren’t noble.

“Shit, this is from the essence of the slime.”

Hajime pulls out two cursed bora artifacts from the “treasure room” and slaps them on the wrists of Ryuutaro and Kouki. They seemed

to be causing the worst problem. Shizuku and Suzu were delirious, even calling out Kaori and Yue's names in their fervor. The artifacts used some kind of restriction spatial magic.

It seemed like the situation was safe for a second, then Suzu started to extend a hand toward Shizuku. The expression was one that shouldn't show on a girl's face. It was the kind of important expression you only showed to the one you had your heart set on.

Hajime's clicked his tongue in annoyance, throwing another bora on Suzu as well.

"Oh… is master safe? It looks like that slime's mucus is a powerful aphrodisiac." Tio explains.

While restraining Suzu, he stops Kaori as she reaches out to cling to his left arm. Tio begins to move towards him at a steady pace with a calm look.

Hajime looks up at her.

To Hajime's surprised, she begins to talk as if normal.

"My magic is being obstructed by the feeling of intense pleasure. Soon, I might lose my consciousness and be blinded by the pleasure. This is more than just a troublesome thing. Since it wasn't just a little, I was bathed in it, it'll be impossible to resist. If the battle had been prolonged, it would have been complete destruction. Even if we survived, the after effects would become… rather dangerous."

"Oh, Oh, yeah…"

"Hmm, probably, the goal of this test is to endure pleasure and overcome difficulties together, or to let bonds be defeated by pleasure. In any case, the "liberators" played a really nasty trick. They probably didn't expect someone like past with such a high poison resistance."

"Tio…."

"What can I say? It's very much like master."

Hajime, while agreeing with Tio's predictions, gave out a bigger question while eyeing Yue and the others.

"You guess that it was the slime's mucus that caused this situation… it's safe to think that. But why are you so calm? You got hit with more mucus than anyone."

"Certainly, the liquid is affecting this mistress. In fact, my body is greatly affected by it. I'm thinking right now that I'd like master to lick me."

"Tio…"

Tio throws out her chest, giving Hajime a wide eye look as she flashes a beautiful smile.

Although Tio is being violated by intense pleasure, she's keeping her senses by the power of her will. It seemed to be a sense of pride. Hajime wondered how long she'd be able to keep it up. After all, she was hit with a lot of aphrodisiac…

"Mistress is her master's slave. Compared with the degree of pleasure the pain you give me causes, this is only lukewarm. Now if you wanted to hit me I wouldn't be able to take it anymore."

"Is that so…"

Eyes! Kuwa! Hajime eyes turned sour and looked at her as if she was dirt. Tio, who could even shake the pleasure of the slime, began to shiver uncontrollably.

"As expected of Ms. Tio. Do you mind keeping your distance from me?"

"Oh no, to think you'd call me so indifferently and distantly. Ah… this is bad, the pleasure."

Tio was calm a little while ago, but the rapidly growing pleasure of Hajime's disgust quickly defeated her. She was brought to all fours, painting desperately. From such a sight, Hajime turned away and looked at Yue, who was hugging his body while trembling.

He decided to talk to the three he trusted the most.

Yue, Shia, Kaori. You guy's shouldn't be that overtaken by a slime like this? You're keeping things in control, right?

The three of them look up at Hajime, their cheeks stained red, their breath coming out in hot puffs as they cling to him desperately.

"Nn… is natural."

"uu, of course, yoo- "

"It's okay. I'm fine!"

They resisted the intense desire that tempted them to devote themselves to pleasure. Yue and the others were keeping it together with clenched teeth. After a look at the girls, Hajime laughs with satisfaction.

"This is one of the disgusting trials prepared for the great labyrinth. If you think for a second you can't take it, look at the others. Don't lose to them, it'd be embarrassing?"

Amongst his speech, Yue's mouth distorted into a fearless smile.

"There is a way to fix this immediately, of course. I'm holy water to drink. That would quickly change out state. There are no things that can't be released. How about…"

Hajime and the two others respond at the same time before she can finish talking.

"… unnecessary."

"I do not need."

"I don't need that."

They decided to get over the trial without any help. If "help" was "that". Hajime gave a soft look. Yue, Shia, and Kaori give him happy smiles, because Hajime believed in them.

He still tried to help by keep a distance between the three women. This wasn't something that would be easy for them to endure.

However…

"Hajime hug is gone…" Yue whined.

"It isn't harder for you?"

"It's harder not to embrace Hajime."

"As she said, because the heart calms down… so please…" Shia added.

Hajime thought that it'd be a problem if he held them, but found himself holding all three in his arms. On his right arm is Shia, his left his Kaori, and Yue was held in the front on his lap.

They occasionally trembled with shivers, but Yue and the others devoted themselves to controlling their rough breathing and finally began to feel relief.

If they concentrated with their eyes closed, they could maintain and balance their spirit. Soon, the three excited women body temperatures began to drop and their heartbeats returned to normal. They seemed to be able to whether this trial without a problem as well. Hajime avoided moving his body even slightly as to not stimulate them. He smiled a little and kept supporting the three woman.

"I like this master, may your mistress also come over there?" Tio speaks up.

"Clearly that's a joke… Ms. Clarce."

"I'm falling down… oh, so cold. I'm done for."